NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 21

岸本斉史

There are so many movie trilogies and series these days, like *The Matrix*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, etc. It gladdens me that my favorite film worlds continue to live on.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2004*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 21
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com

www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO

VOL. 21
PURSUIT

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

Sakura
サクラ

The Sound Ninja Four

The Story So Far...

Twelve years ago a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes…

…only to return to launch *Operation Destroy Konoha!* The attack appears to be thwarted when Lord Hokage sacrifices his own life.

After the onslaught, Tsunade is elevated to the position of Fifth Hokage. She immediately attends to the medical needs of Sasuke and Rock Lee. Soon after Sasuke's recovery, however, the Sound Ninja Four set upon him. The Four attempt to woo Sasuke away with the power of Orochimaru, but...

NARUTO

VOL. 21

PURSUIT

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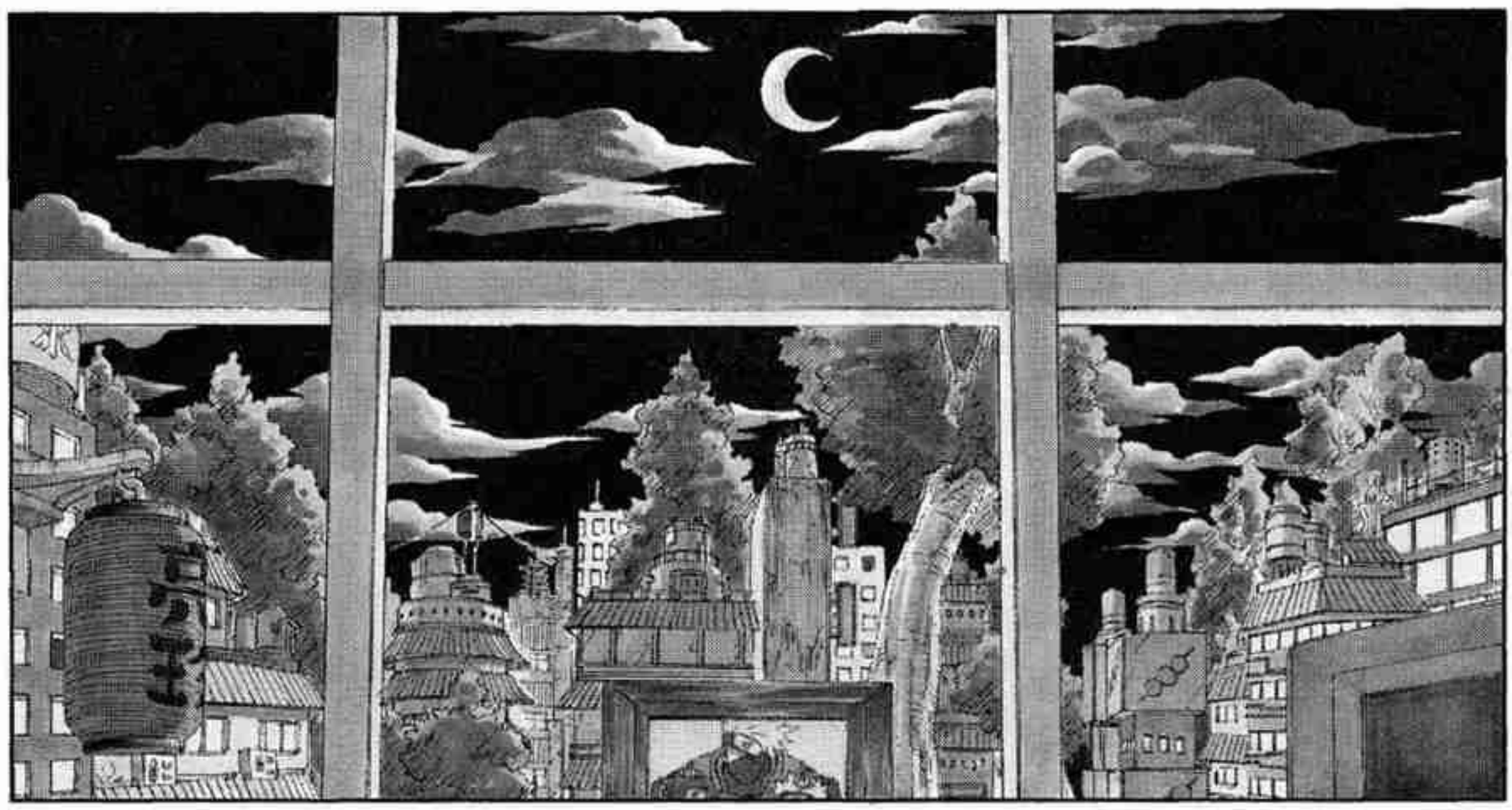
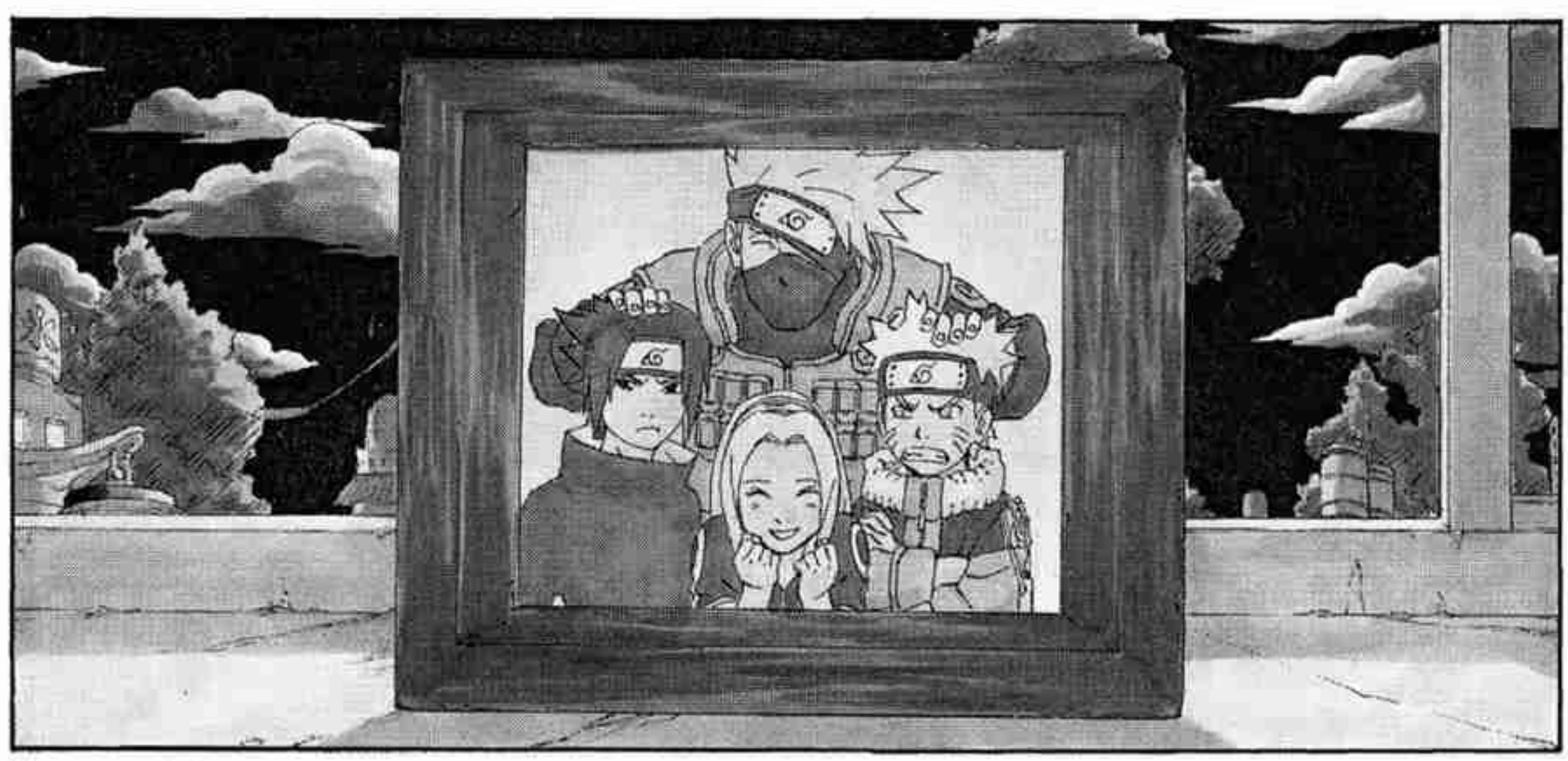
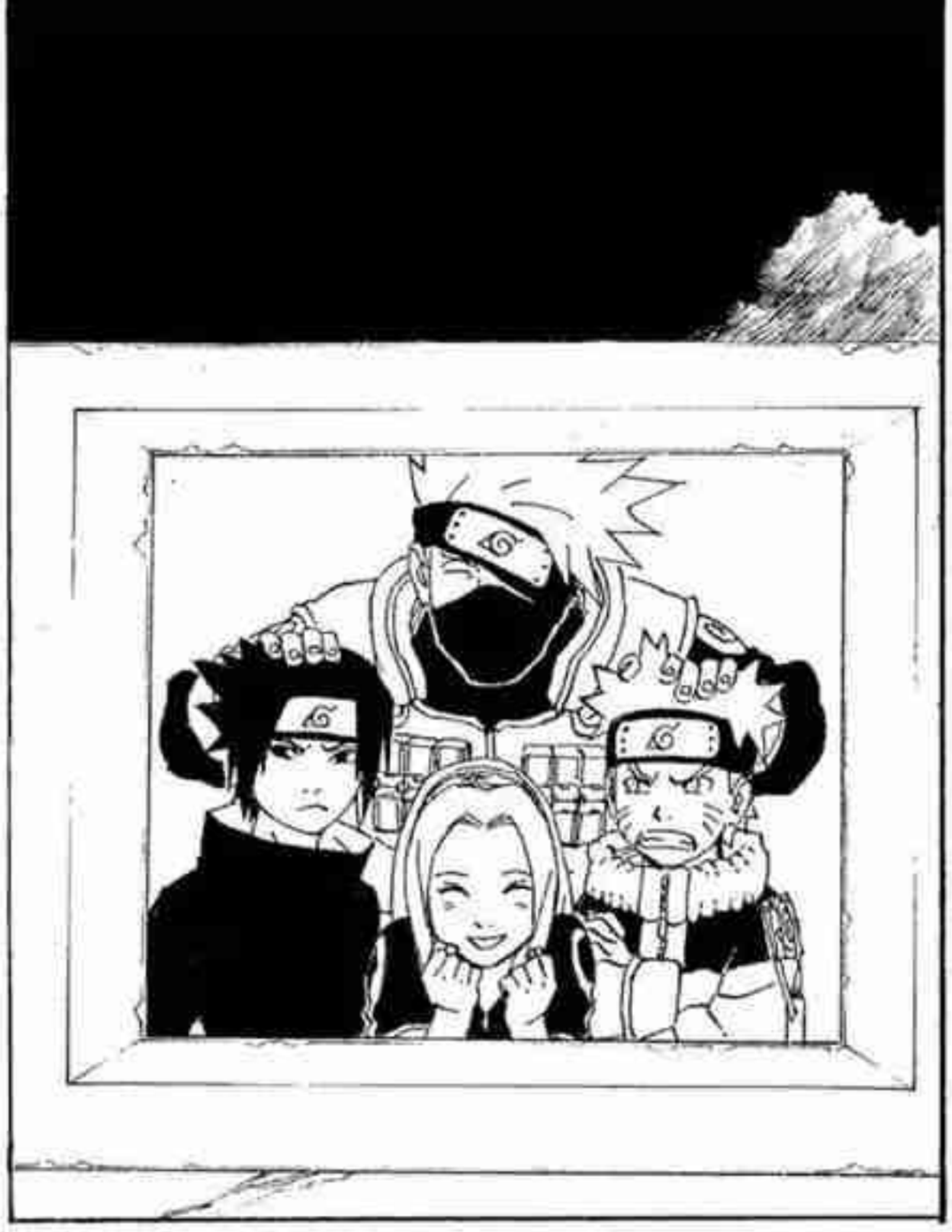




Number 181: The Battle Begins...!!

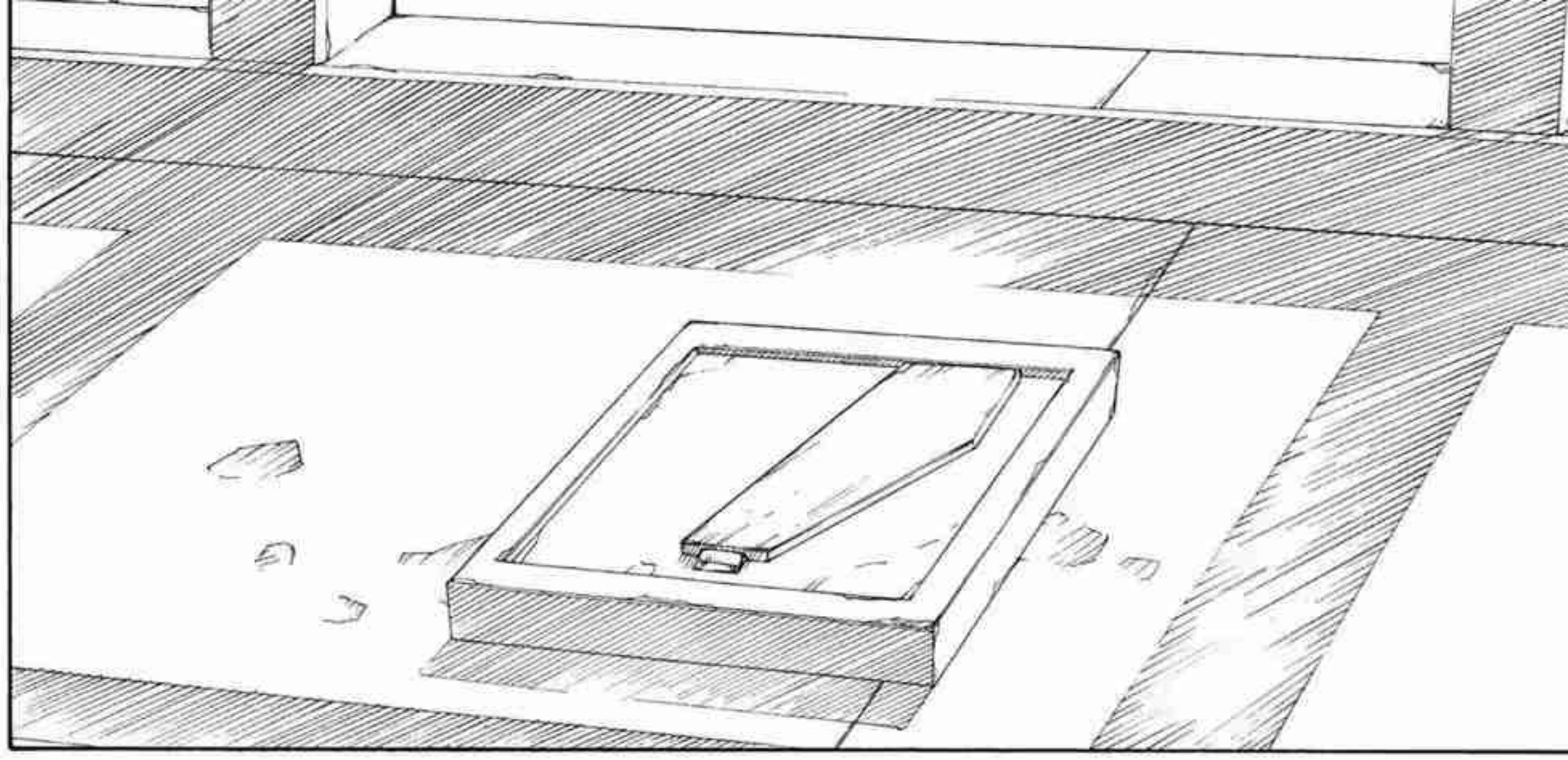
Number 181: The Battle Begins...!!

NARUTO



中間テスト!!

ba
TUM



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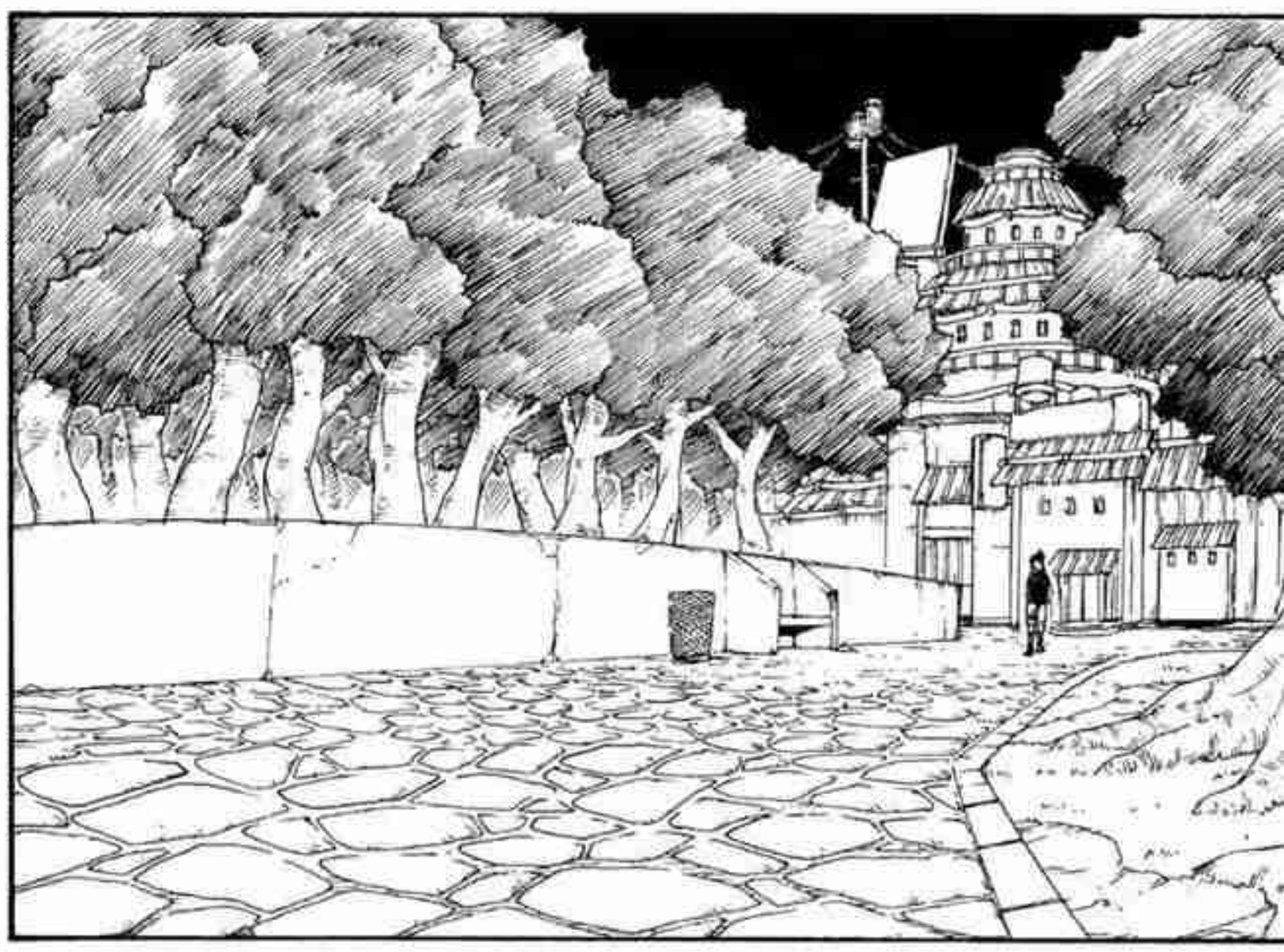
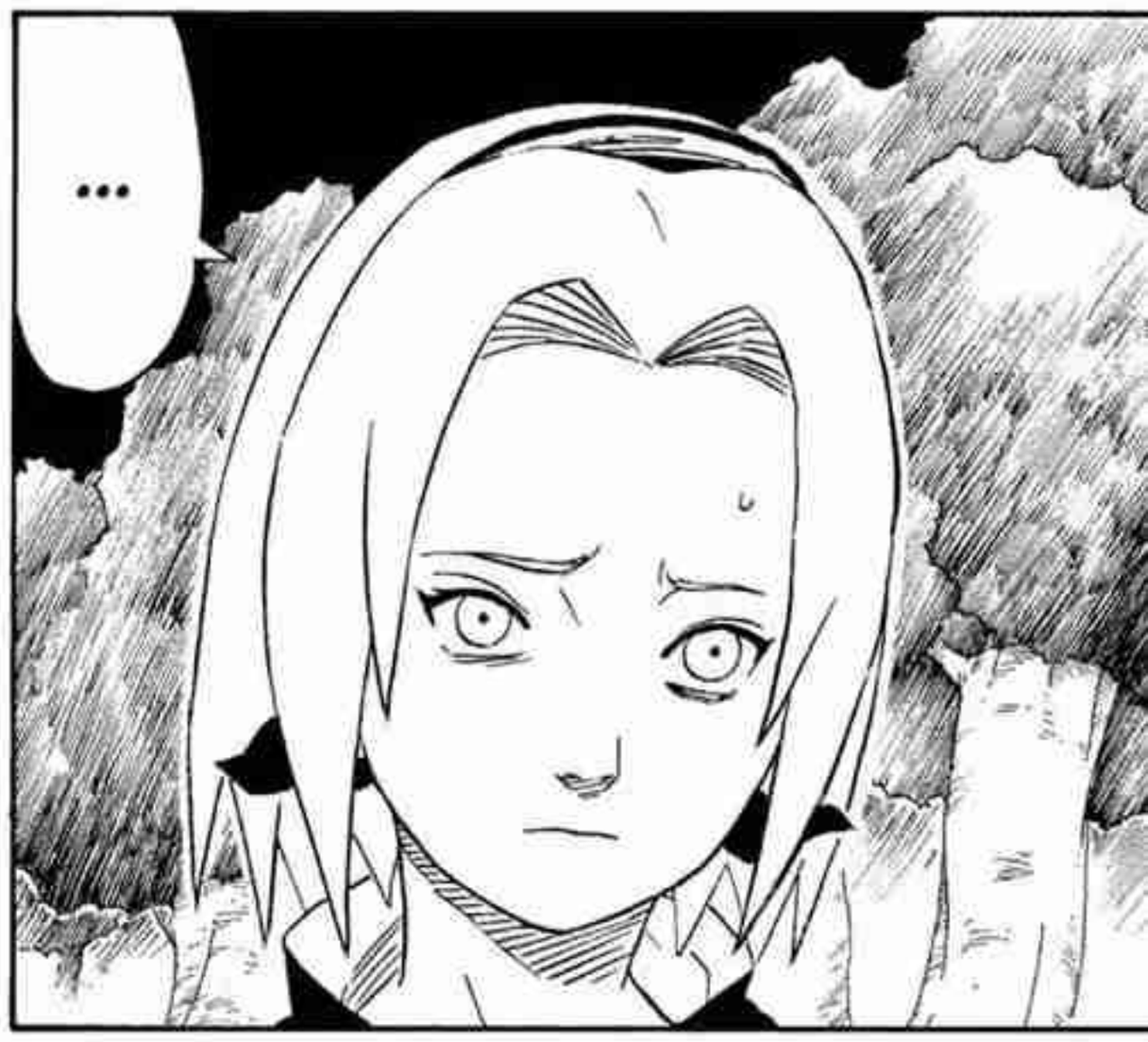
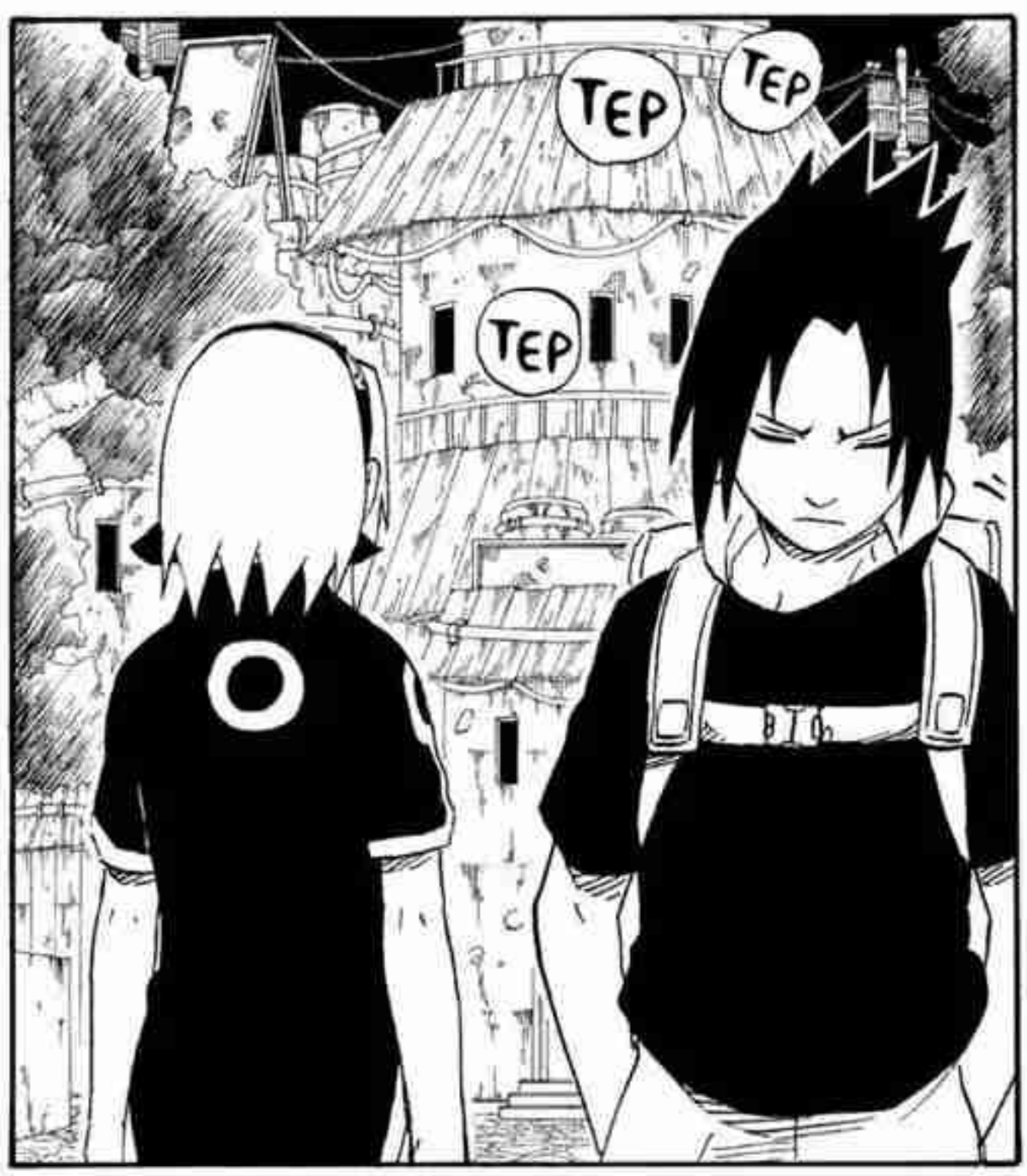
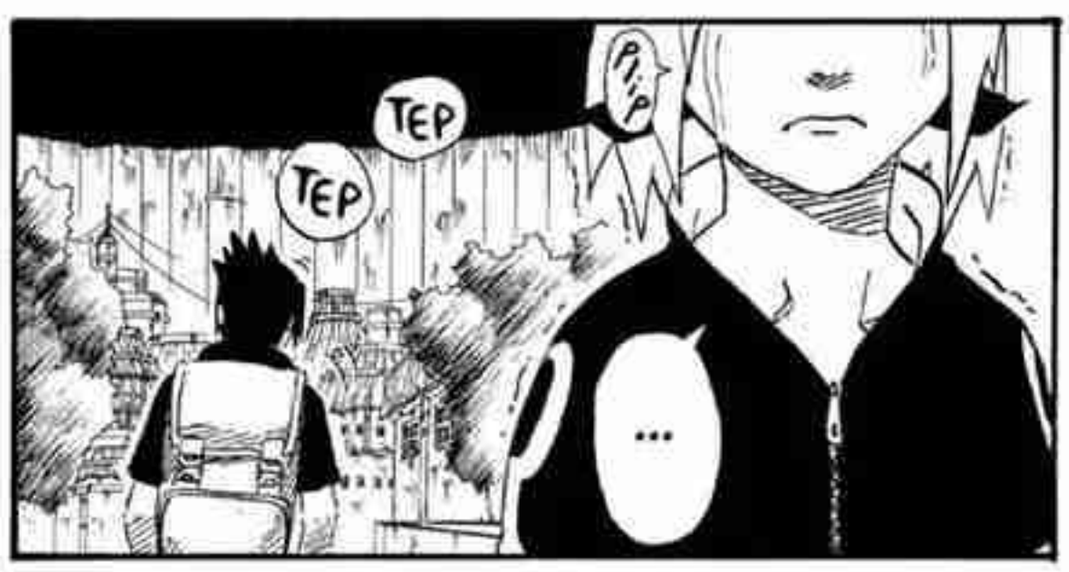
!

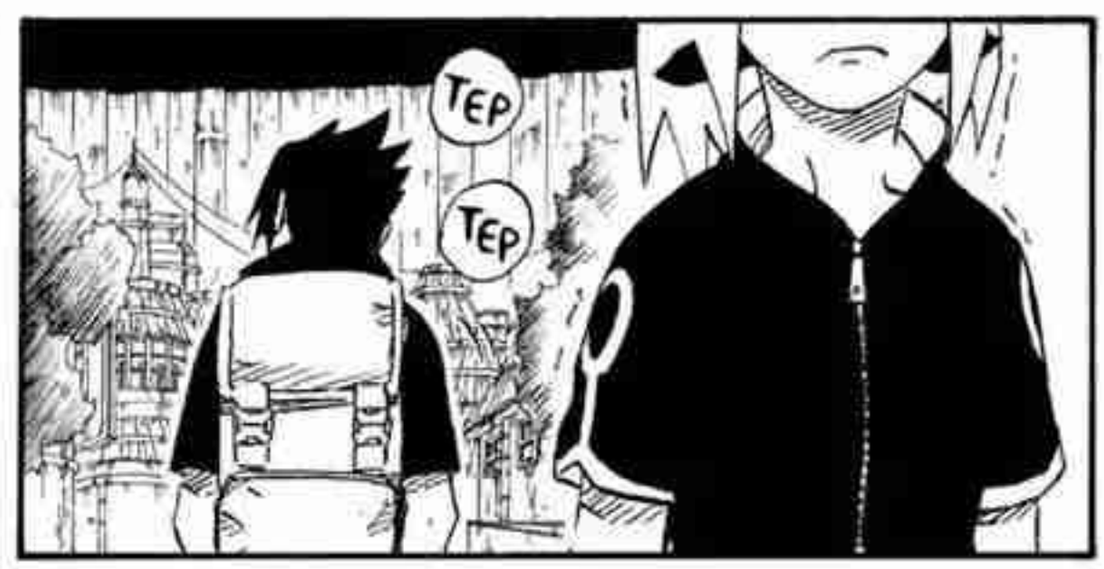



...

IT'S THE DEAD OF NIGHT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?





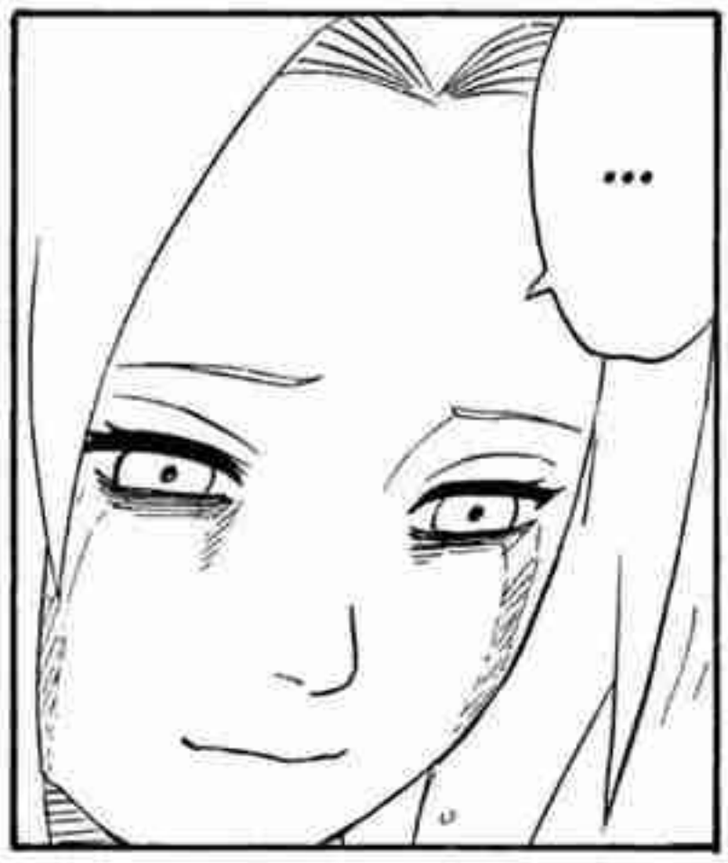


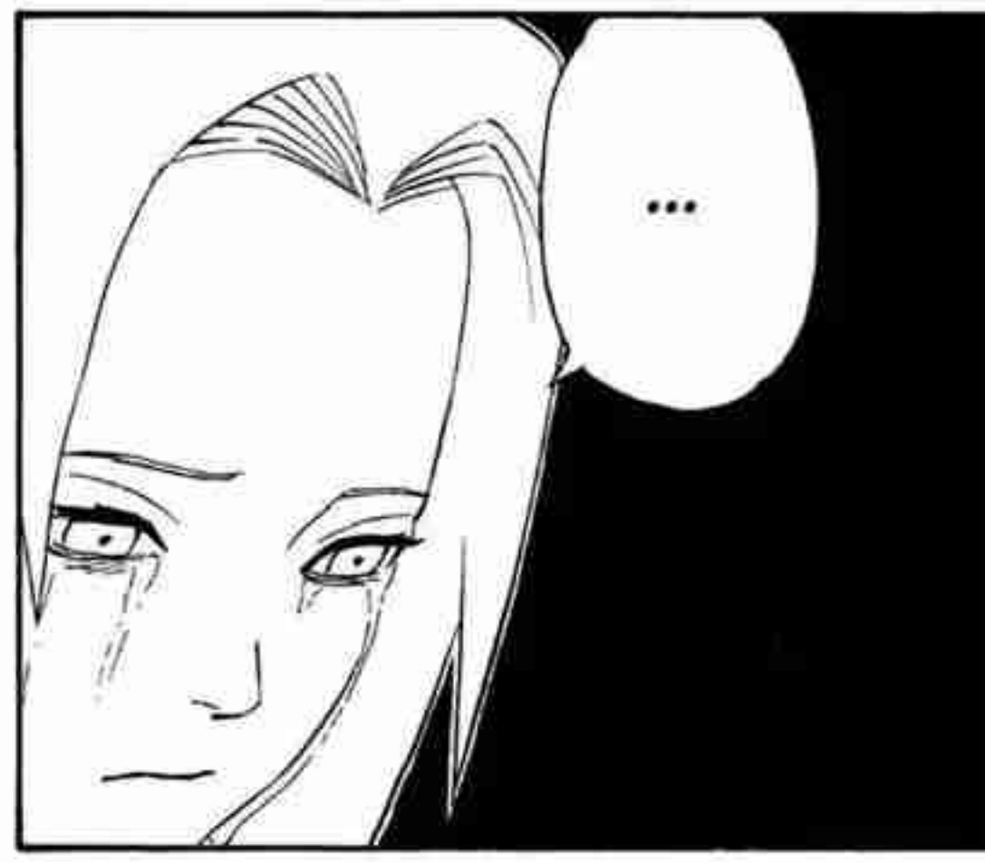
WHY DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME ANY-THING?

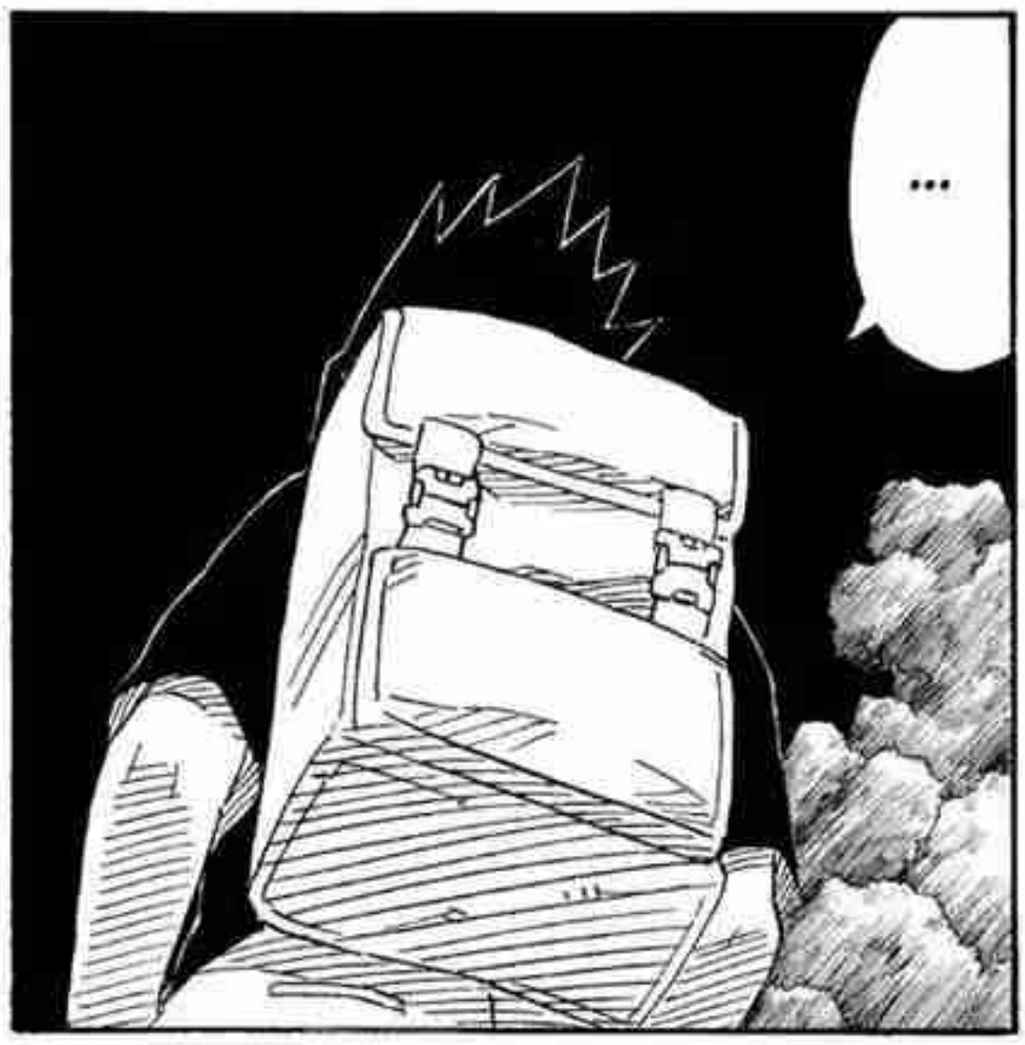
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO SILENT? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST... LET ME IN?

LIKE I SAID, MY BUSINESS IS NONE OF YOURS.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.



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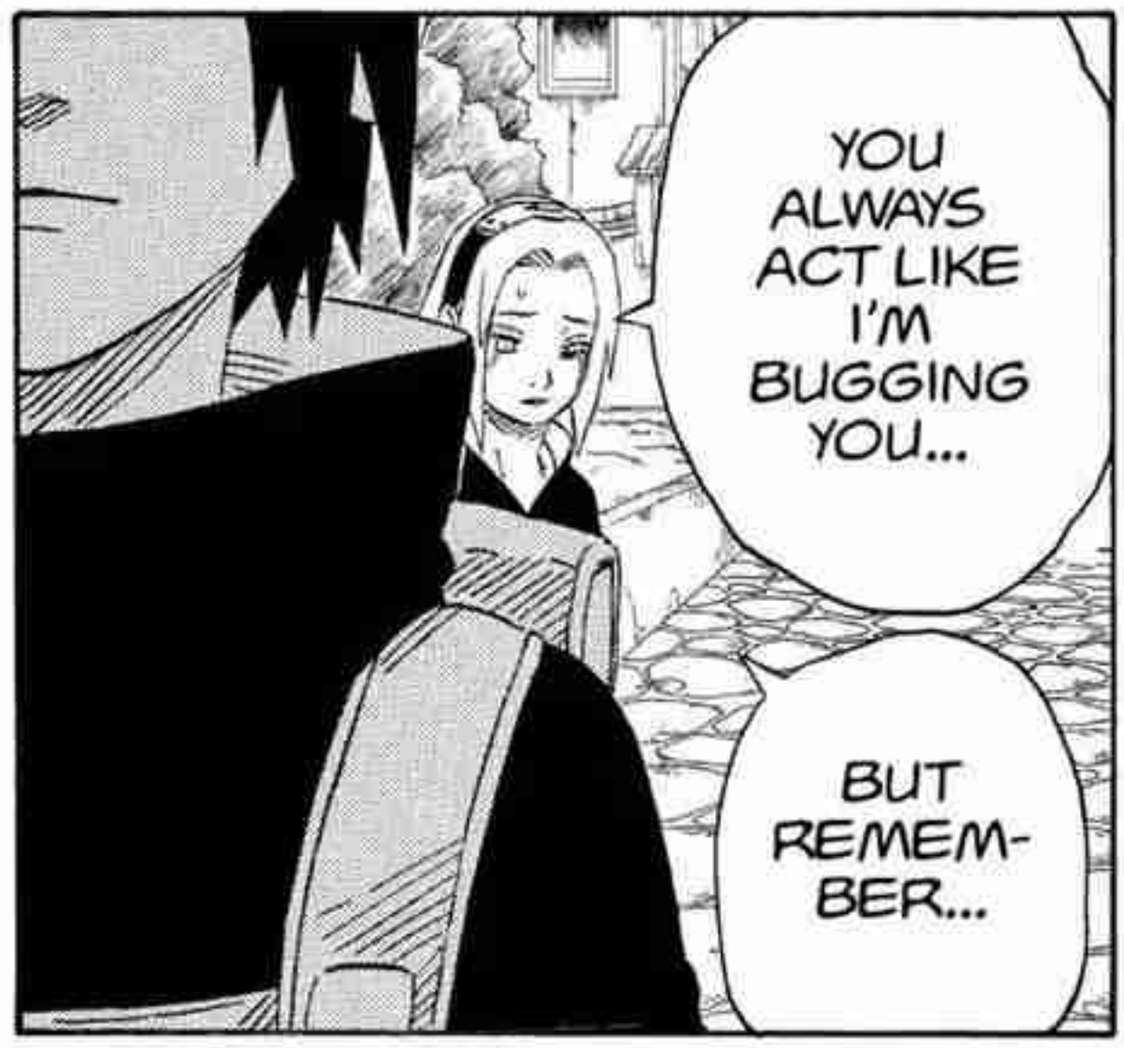
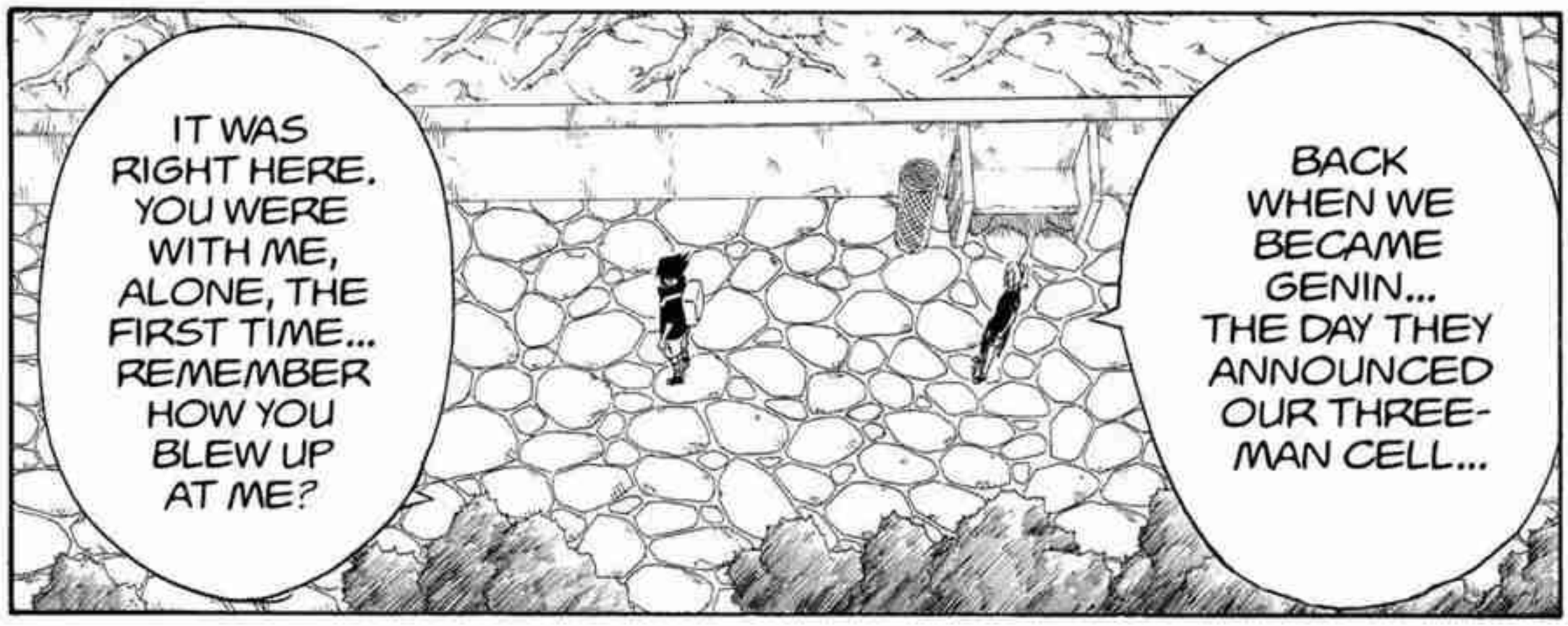
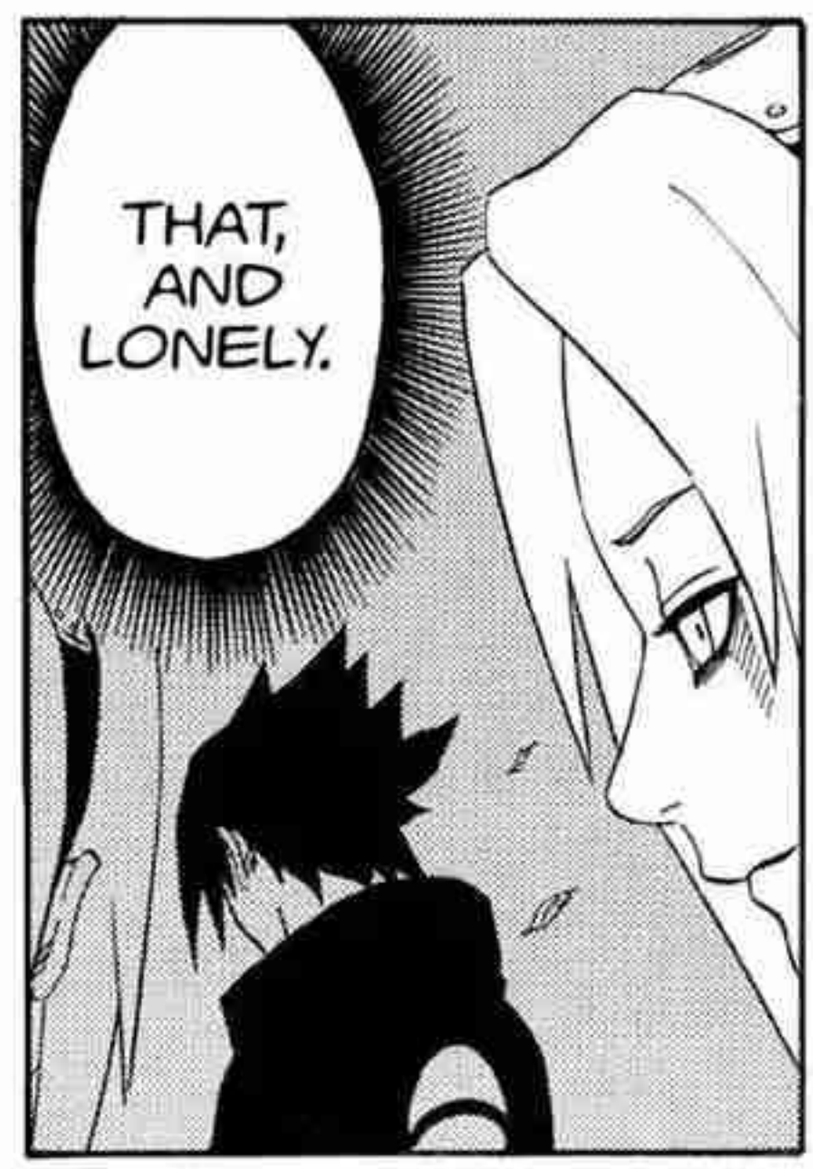

YOU ALWAYS ACT LIKE I'M BUGGING YOU...
BUT REMEM-BER...


IT WAS RIGHT HERE. YOU WERE WITH ME, ALONE, THE FIRST TIME... REMEMBER HOW YOU BLEW UP AT ME?
BACK WHEN WE BECAME GENIN... THE DAY THEY ANNOUNCED OUR THREE-MAN CELL...

...WHA... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?

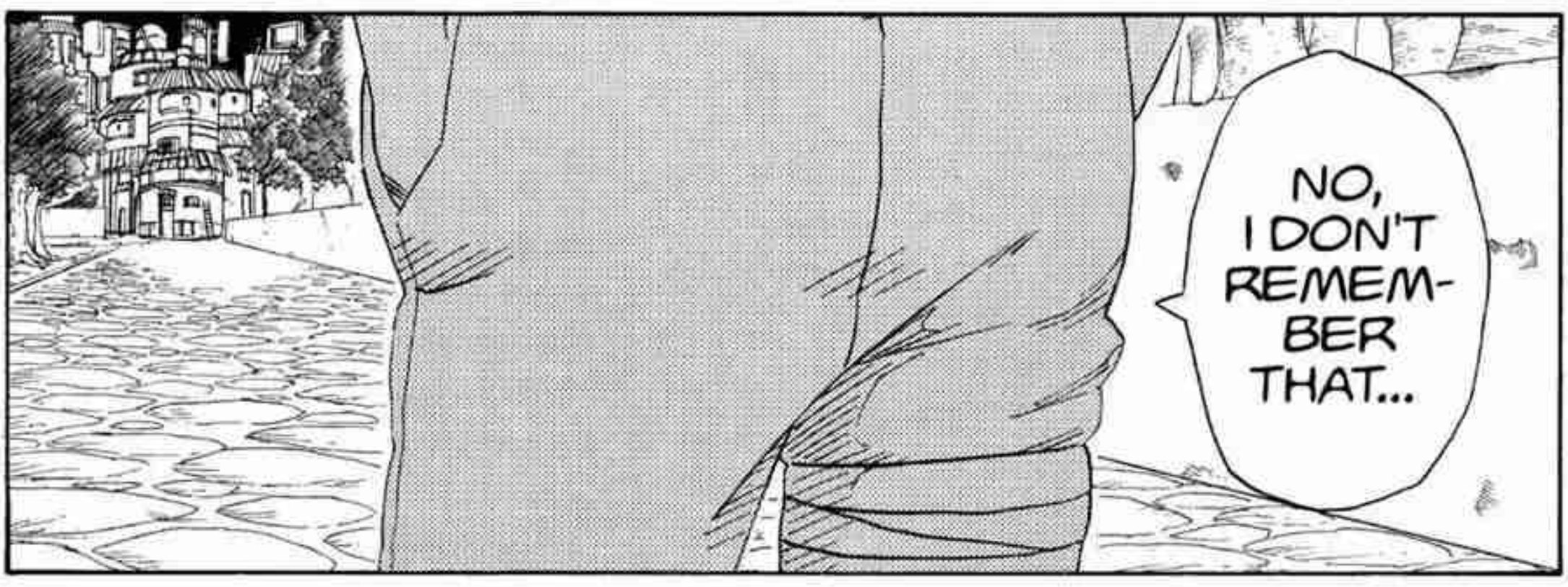
BEING SCOLDED BY YOUR FOLKS DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE!
WHAT ?

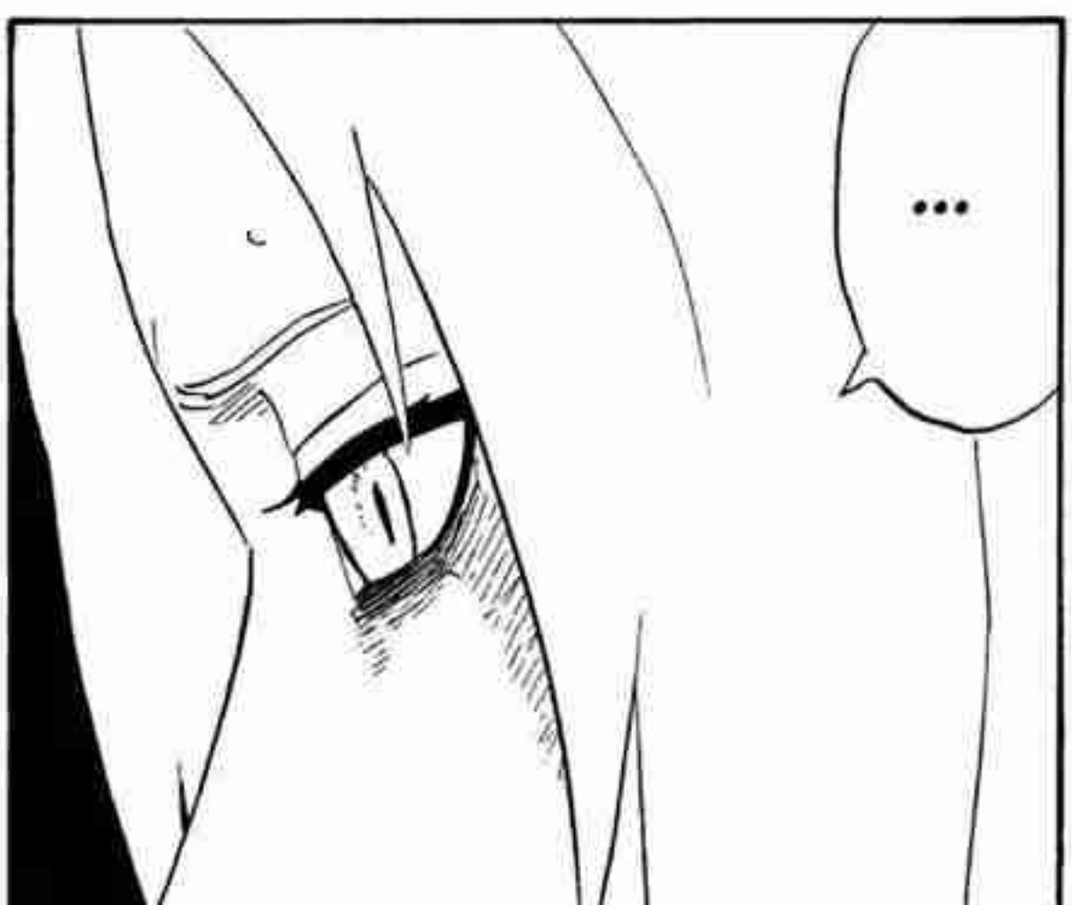

THAT, AND LONELY.

...

YOU...
MAKE ME SICK!

...


NO, I DON'T REMEM-BER THAT...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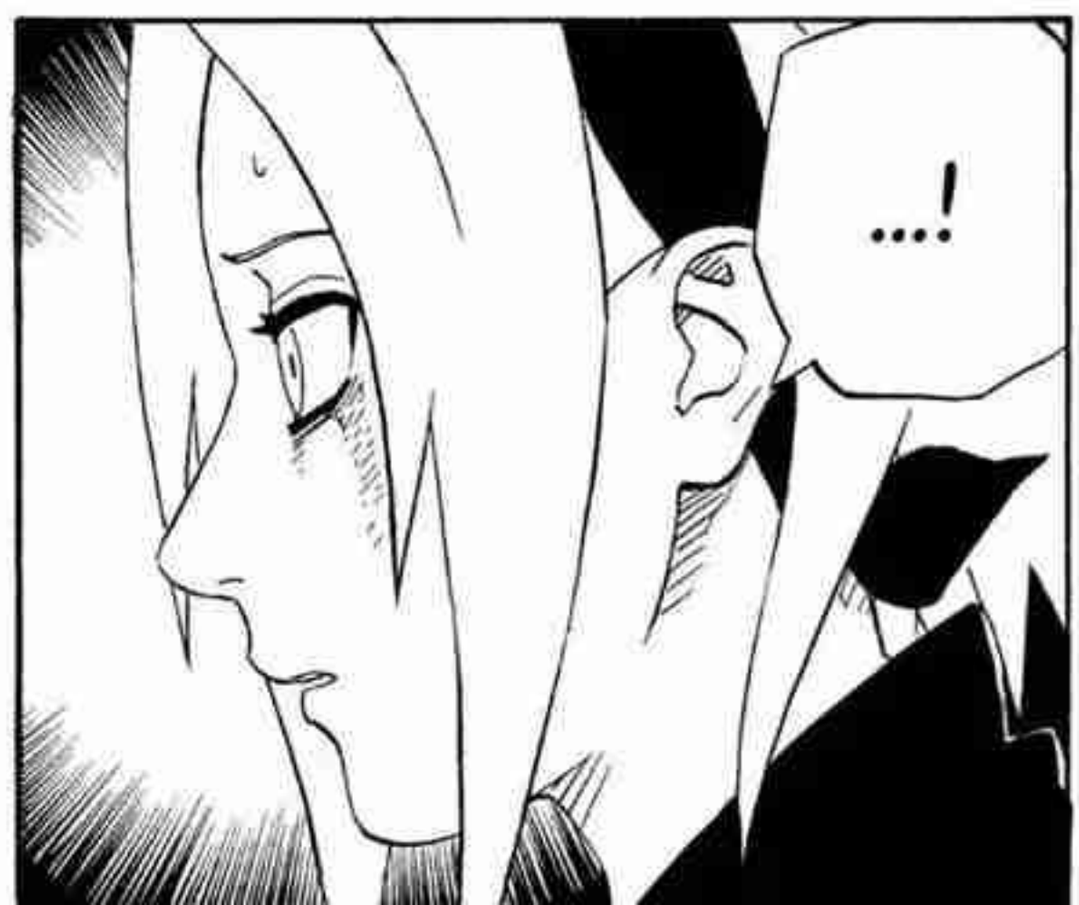

...!

YOU AND ME... NARUTO AND MASTER KAKASHI...

BUT THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED, SASUKE.

...

WELL, IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

HEH... OF COURSE.

IT WAS ROUGH, SOMETIMES... AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD CALL IT EASY, BUT...

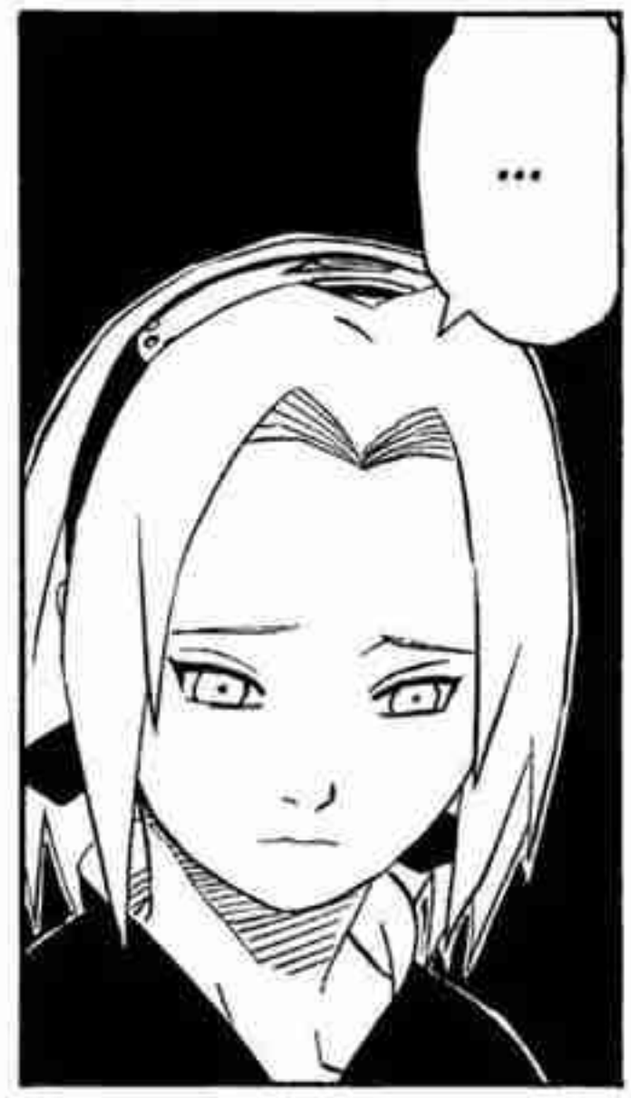
WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT...

THE FOUR OF US, ON SO MANY MISSIONS.

...

IT WAS FUN.

THAT WON'T MAKE ANYONE HAPPY.
NOT YOU, SASUKE...
SASUKE... I KNOW THE DEAL WITH YOUR CLAN.
BUT REVENGE, JUST FOR ITS OWN SAKE...


...

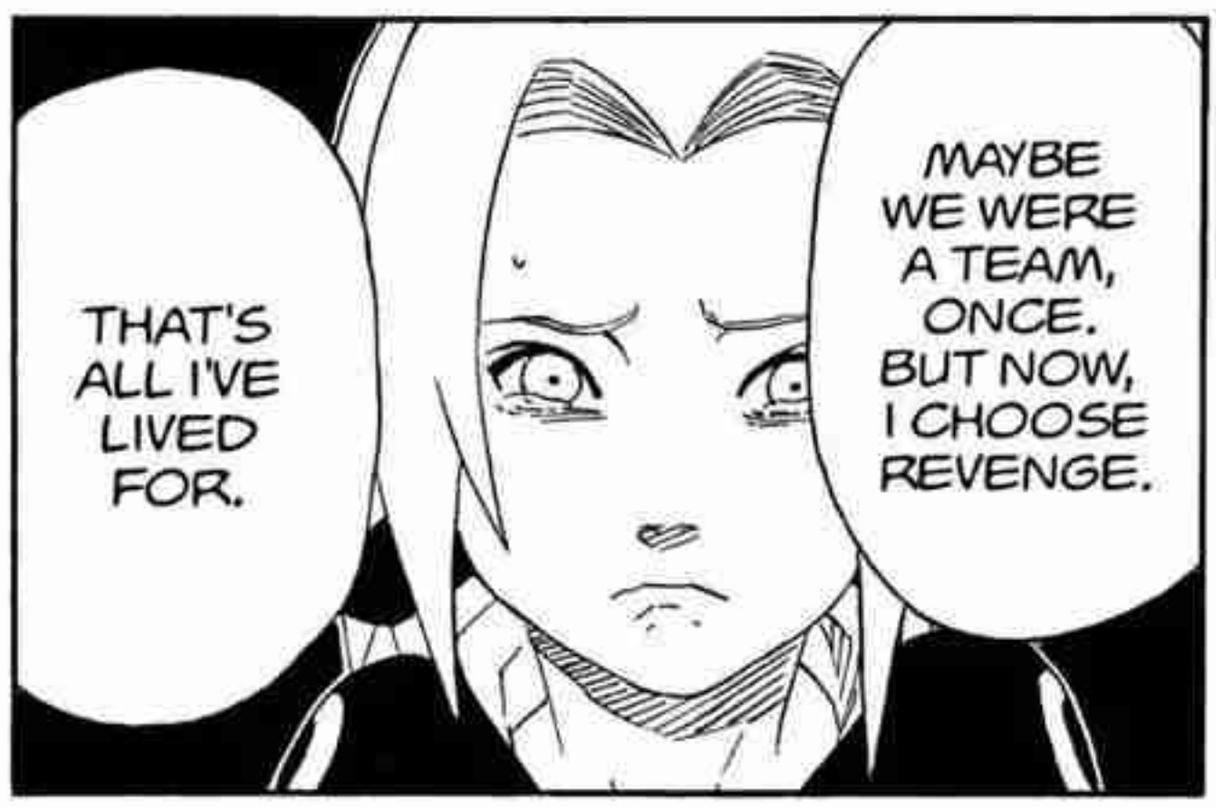
?!

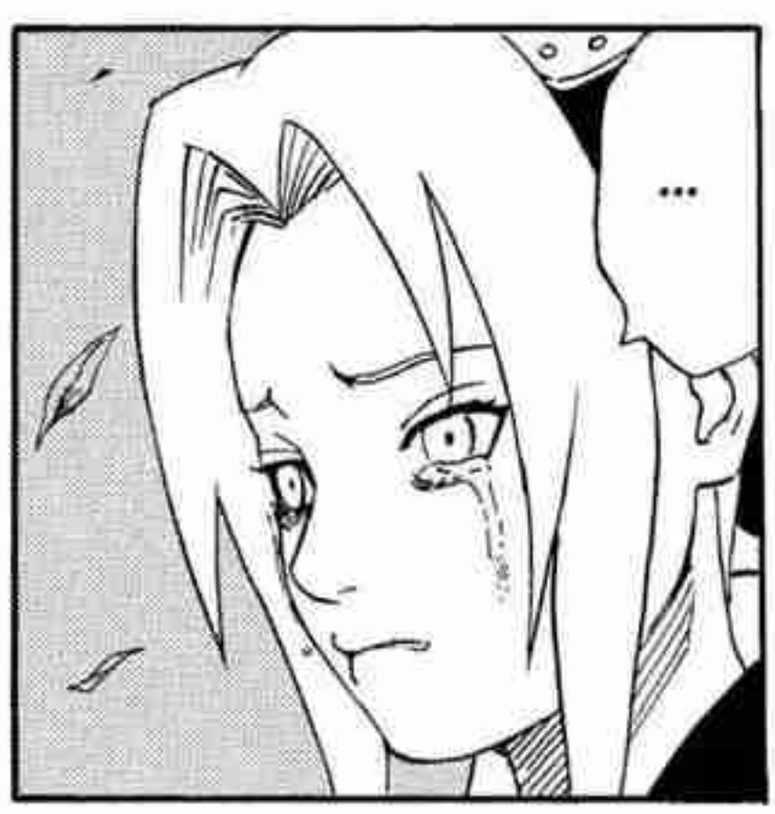
I KNEW IT.

NOT ME EITHER...

SOMETIMES I TOLD MYSELF OUR PATHS ALL LED TO THE SAME PLACE.
YEAH, WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.

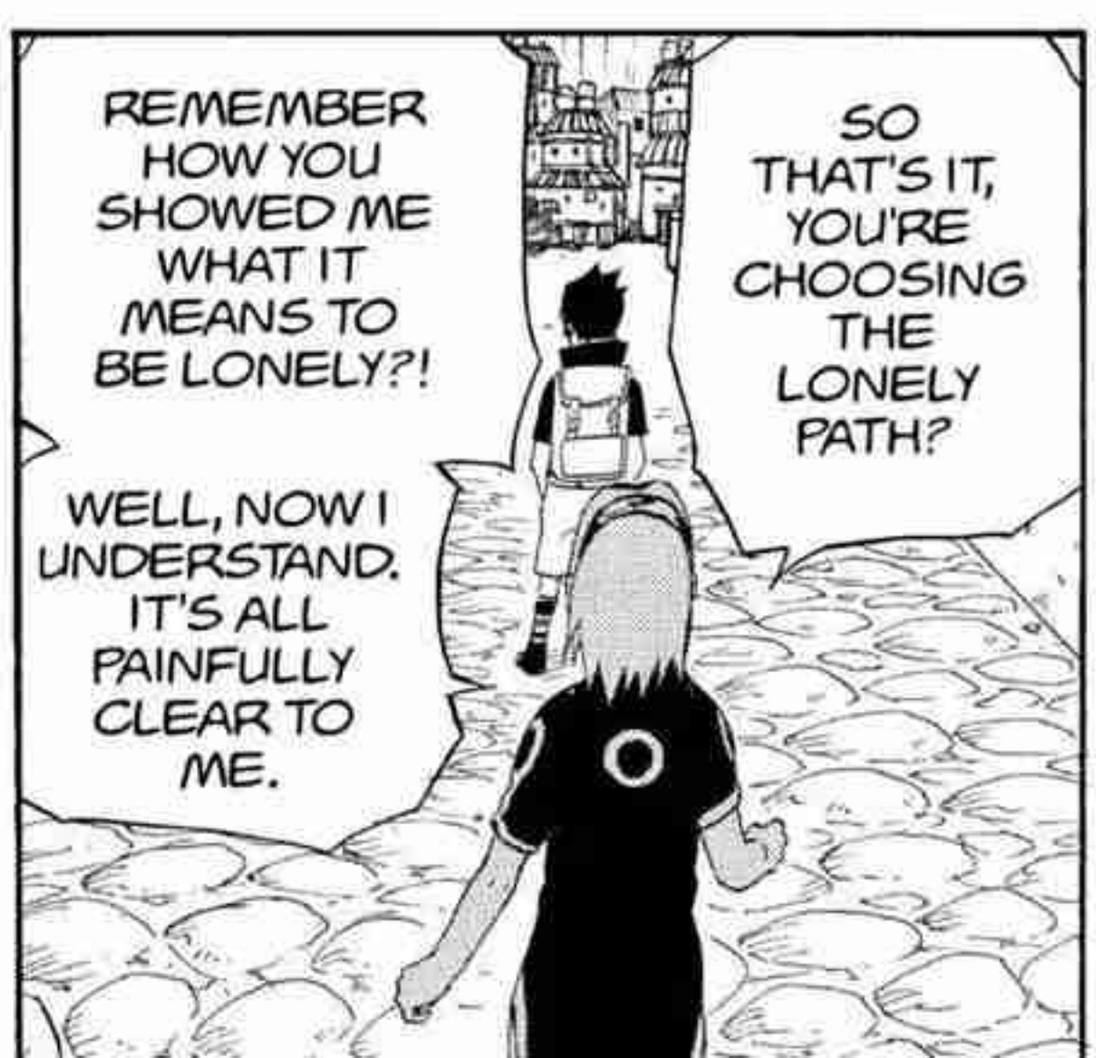
I'M NOT LIKE YOU PEOPLE...
I'M ON A DIFFERENT PATH FROM THE REST OF YOU.


THAT'S ALL I'VE LIVED FOR.
MAYBE WE WERE A TEAM, ONCE. BUT NOW, I CHOOSE REVENGE.

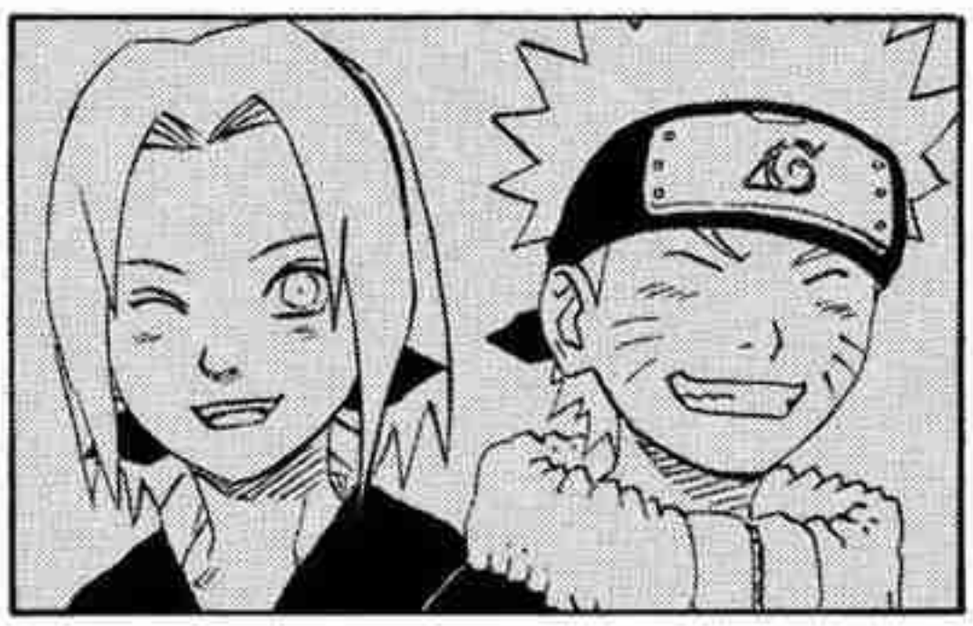

...

I CAN NEVER BE LIKE YOU OR NARUTO.

BUT SASUKE, IF I LOSE YOU, I...
I'VE... I HAVE FAMILY, AND FRIENDS...


REMEMBER HOW YOU SHOWED ME WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LONELY?!
SO THAT'S IT, YOU'RE CHOOSING THE LONELY PATH?
WELL, NOW I UNDERSTAND. IT'S ALL PAINFULLY CLEAR TO ME.

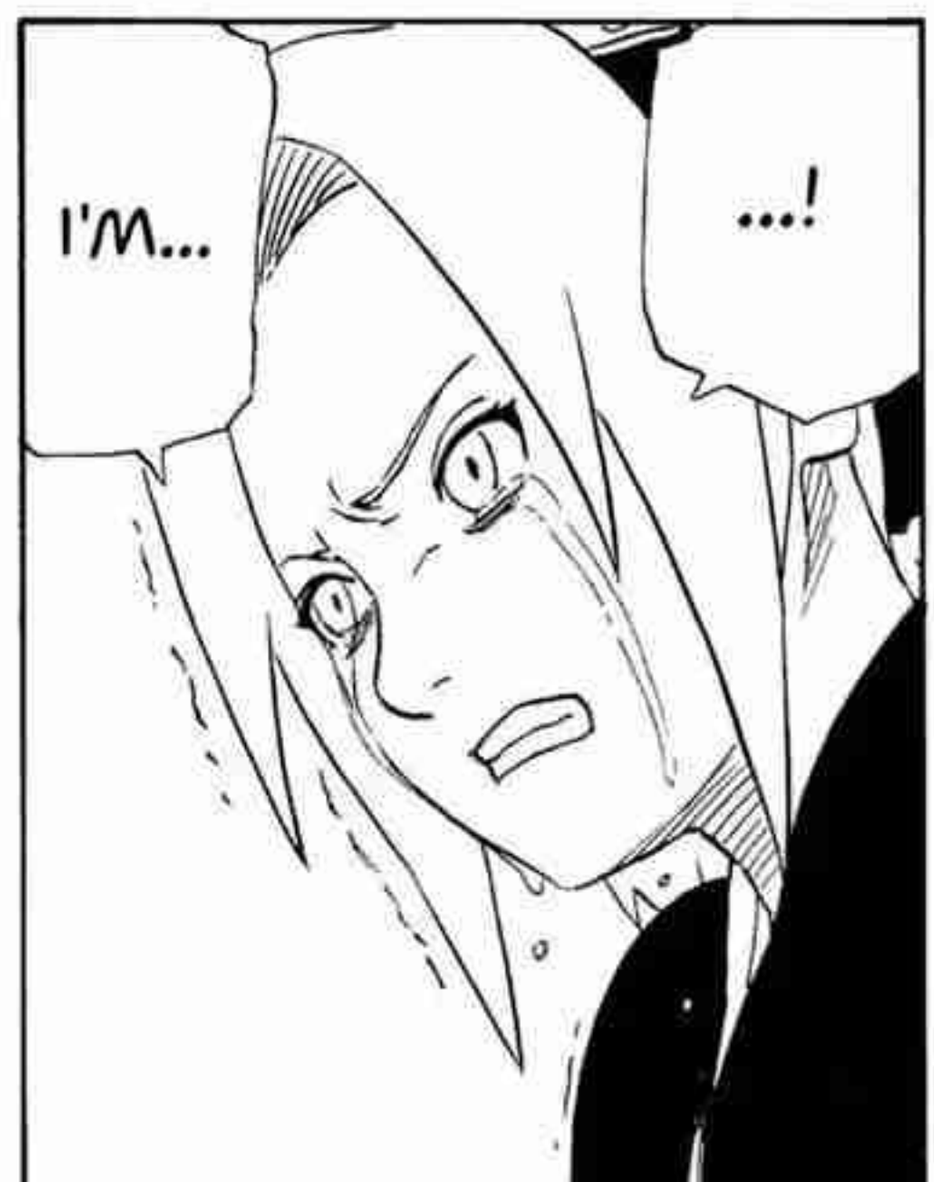
...



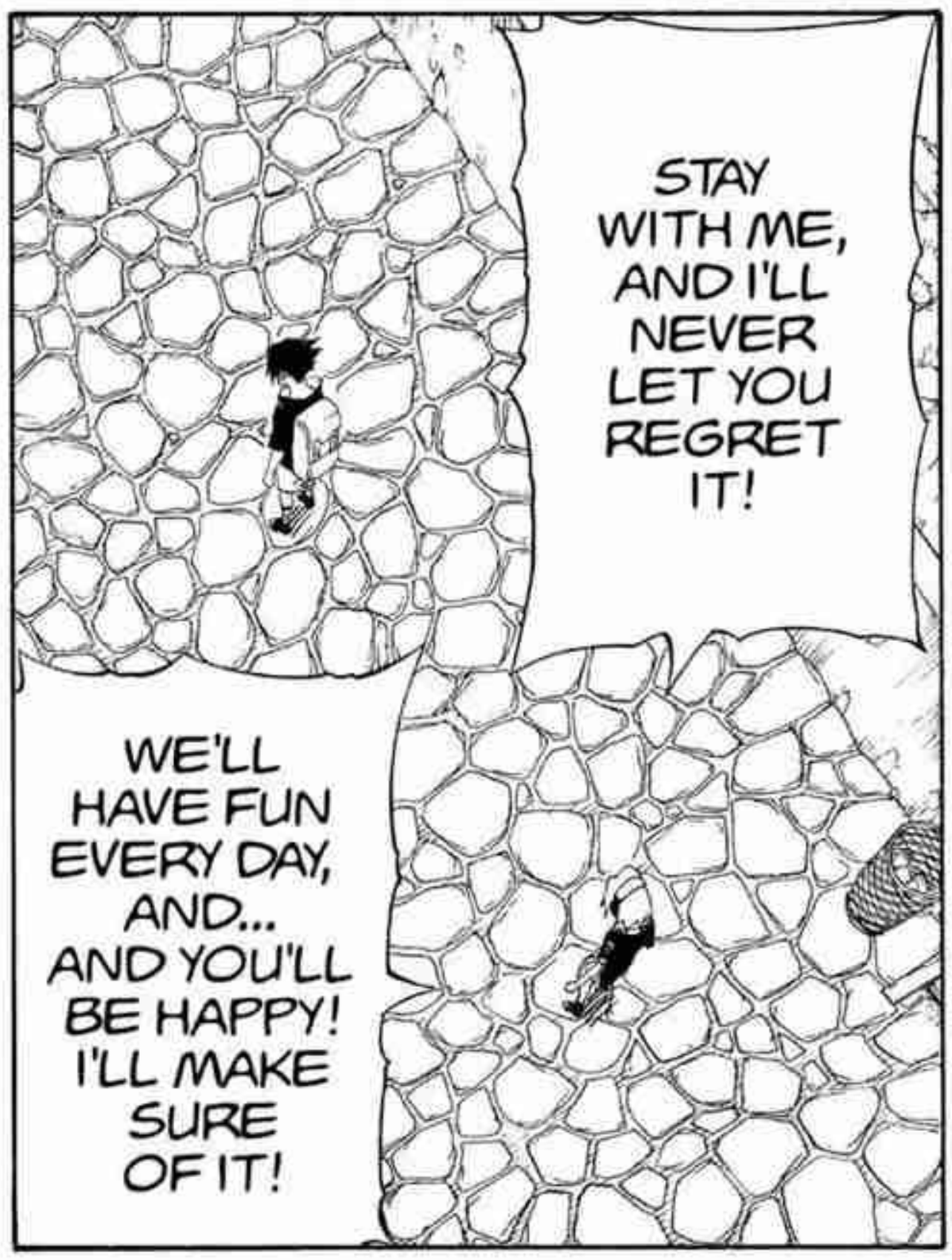
I WILL BE VERY LONELY.
I'LL BE...

THEY'RE JUST DIFFERENT, IS ALL.
WE'RE EACH STARTING OFF ON A NEW PATH...

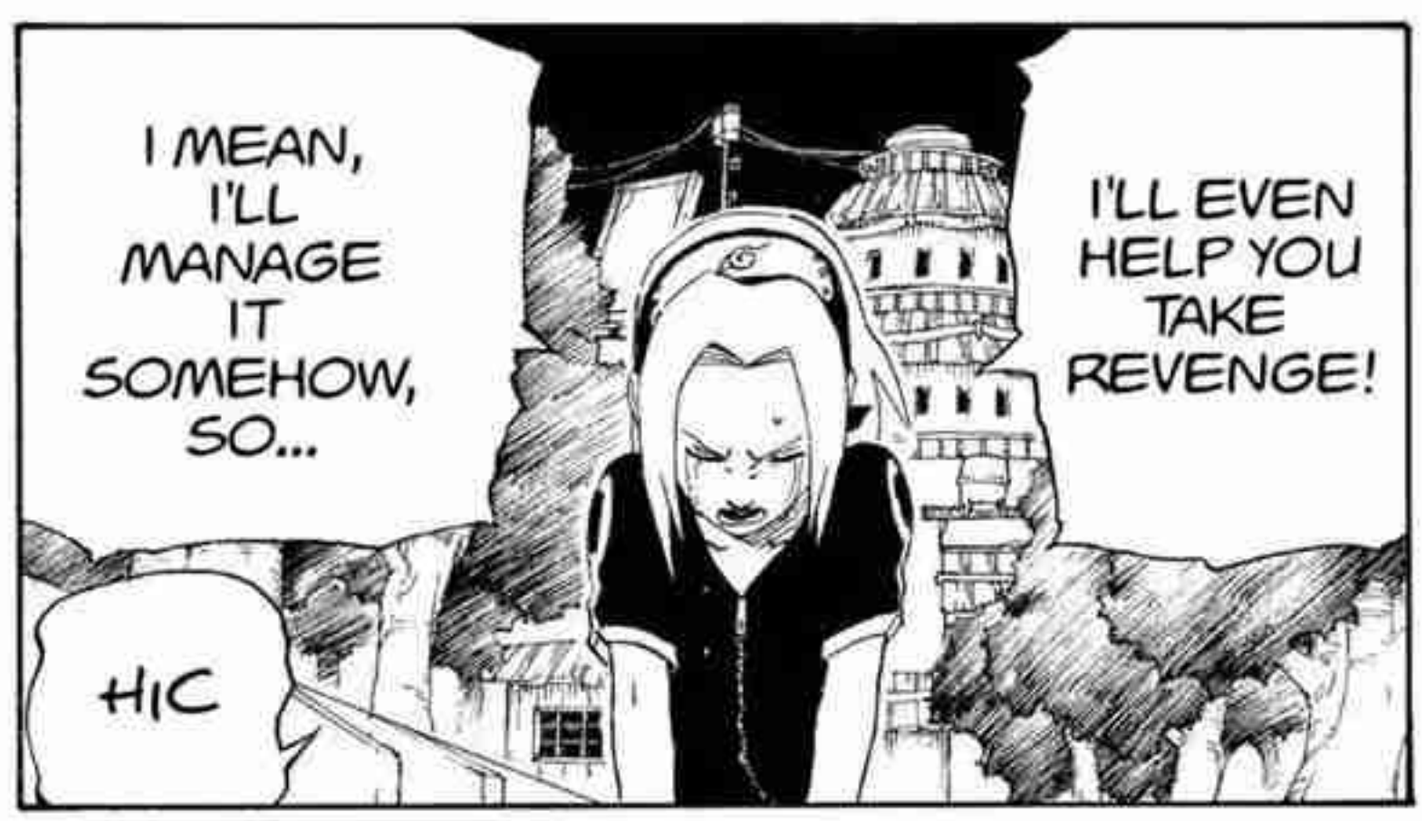
I'M SO IN LOVE WITH YOU THAT I CAN'T EVEN STAND IT! SASUKE!


I'M...
...!

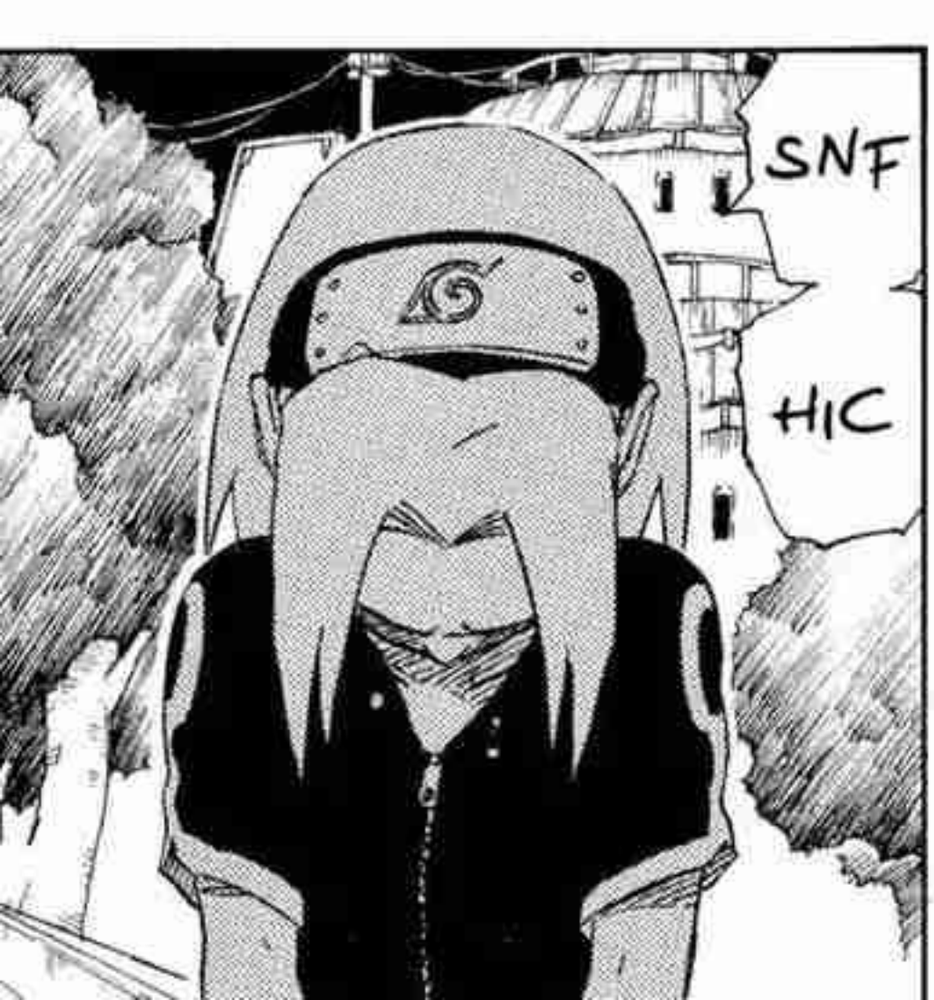
READ THIS WAY
JUST, PLEASE ...
I'LL DO ANY-THING FOR YOU, SASUKE!


STAY WITH ME, AND I'LL NEVER LET YOU REGRET IT!
WE'LL HAVE FUN EVERY DAY, AND... AND YOU'LL BE HAPPY! I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT!

PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T GO!


I MEAN, I'LL MANAGE IT SOMEHOW, SO...
I'LL EVEN HELP YOU TAKE REVENGE!
HIC

...


SNF
HIC

IF YOU CAN'T, THEN... MAYBE I CAN GO WITH YOU?
SO PLEASE ...
STAY WITH ME.

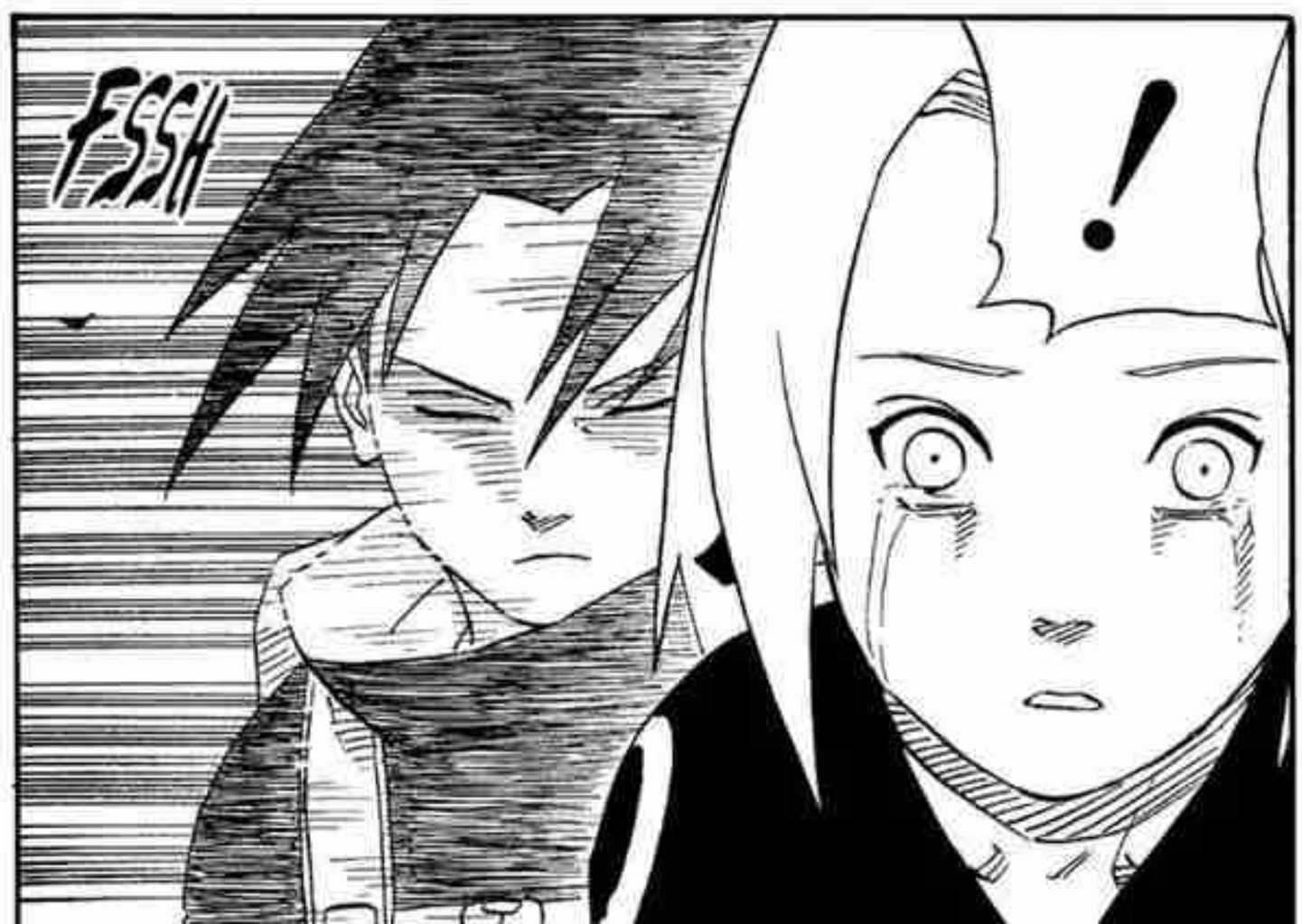
YOU...
...WILL NEVER CHANGE.

DON'T YOU LEAVE ME!!

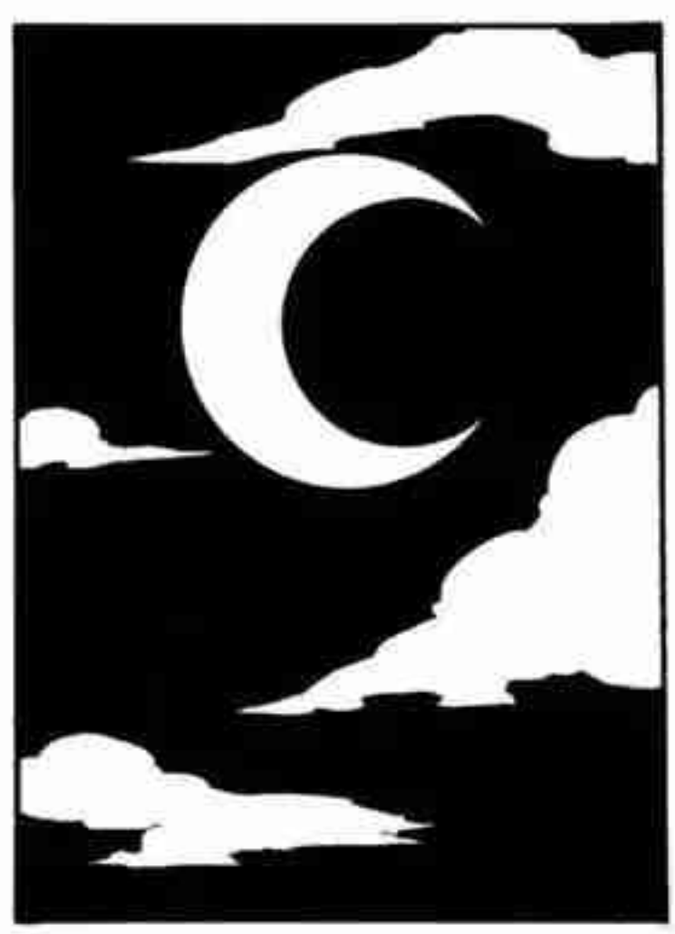
SST

SAKURA...

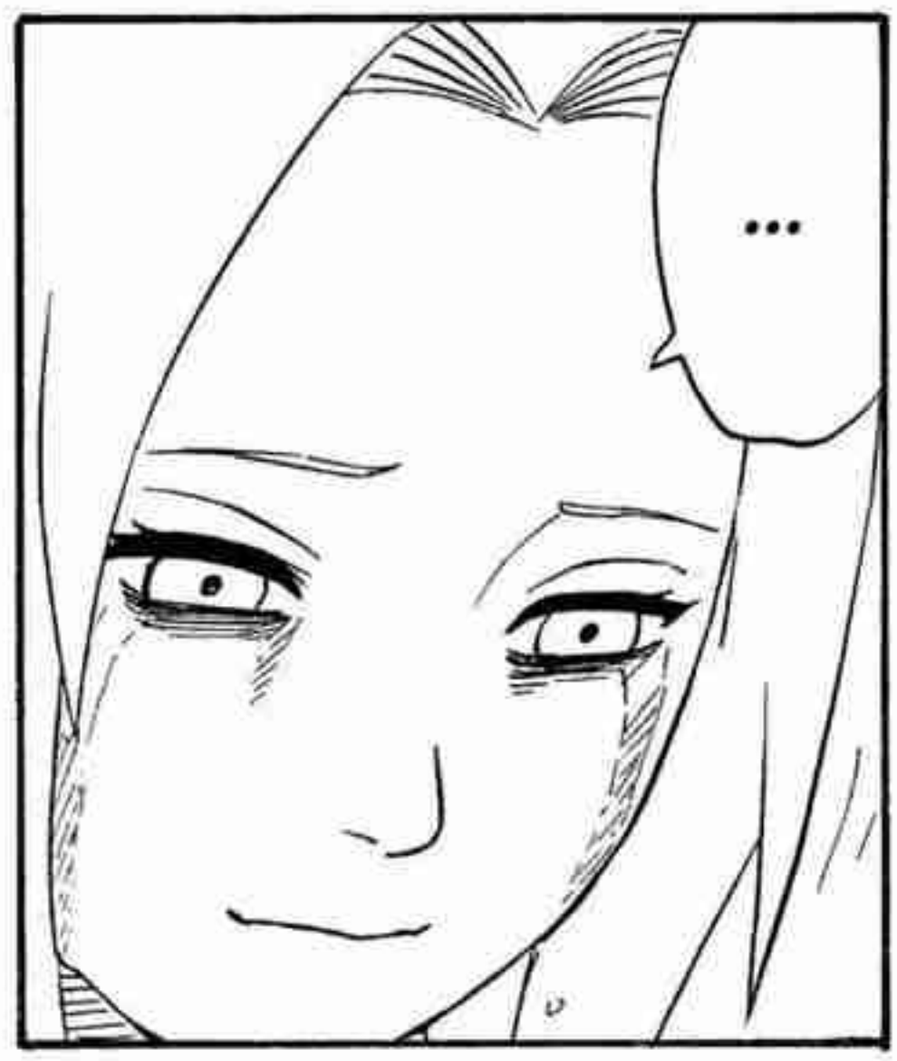
ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL SCREAM...


FSSH
!

THANK YOU...

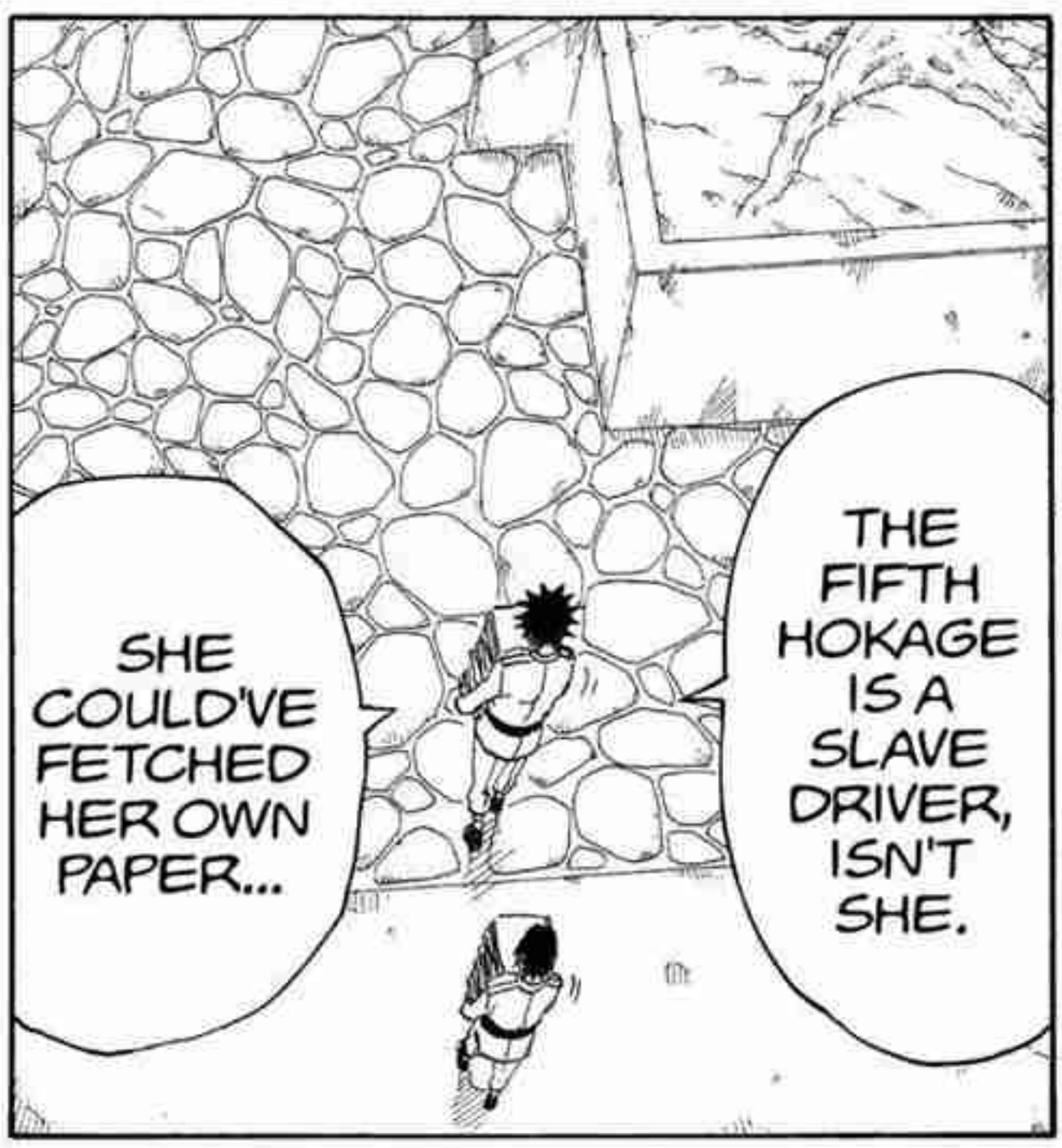


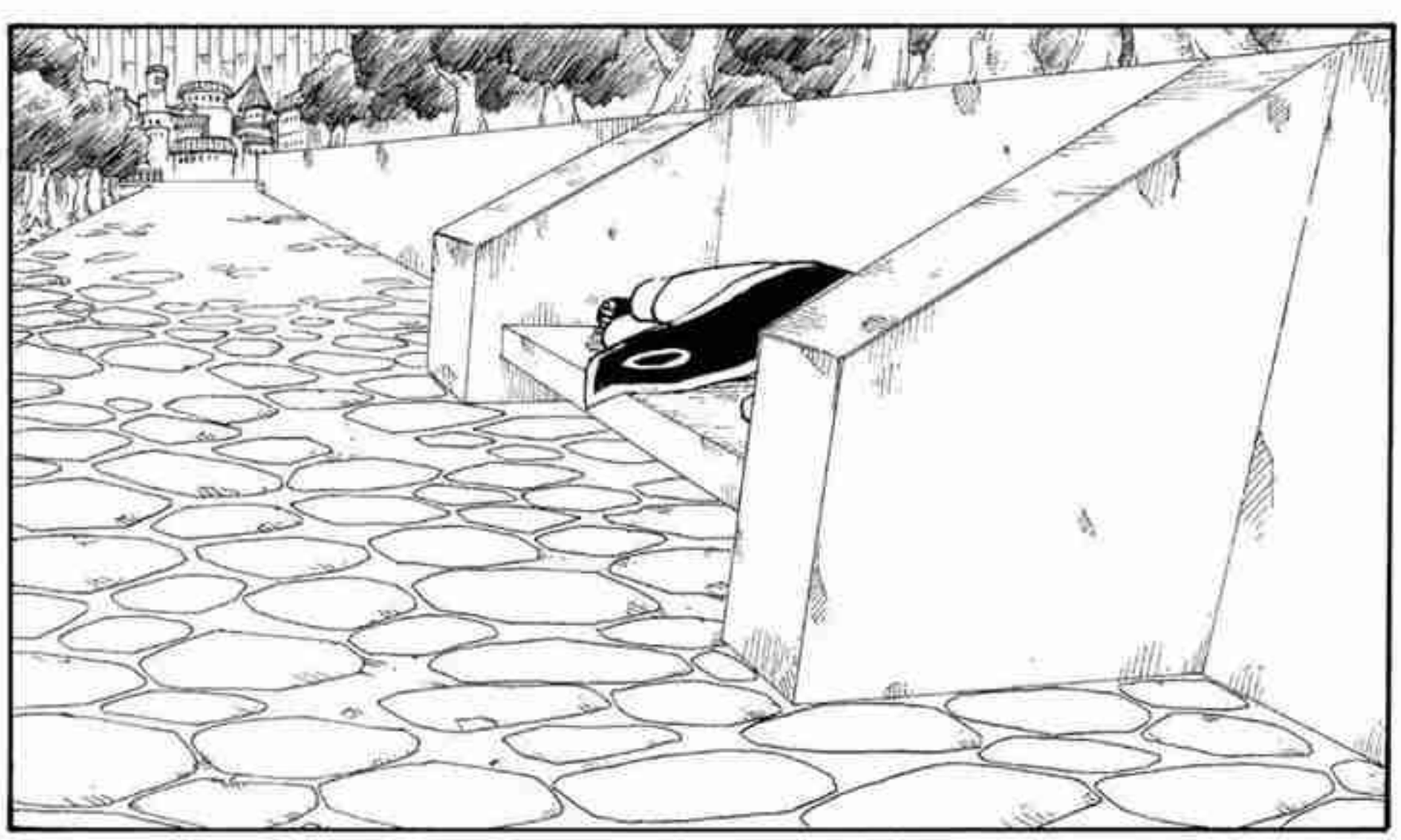
PLEASE PARDON OUR EARLIER CONDUCT.
THE MOMENT YOU LEFT THE VILLAGE, YOU BECAME OUR BOSS. THAT WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN.
YEAH, FINE. WHATEVER. LET'S JUST GET ON WITH IT...
WHAT'S WITH THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE?
WE'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR YOU.
SASUKE, SIR...
SO IT BEGINS!

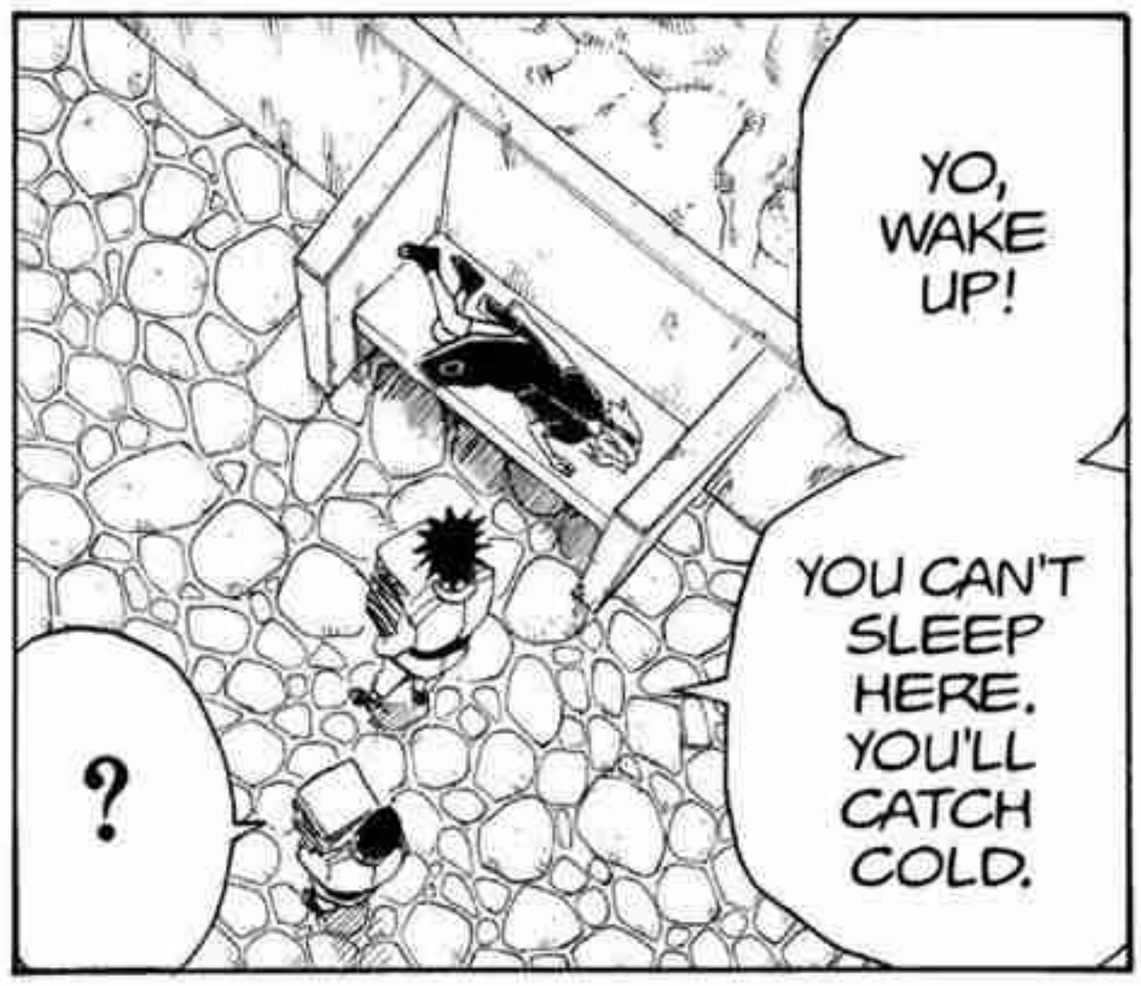


Number 182: Assemble!!

ARRGH. IT'S ALREADY 4 A.M.!

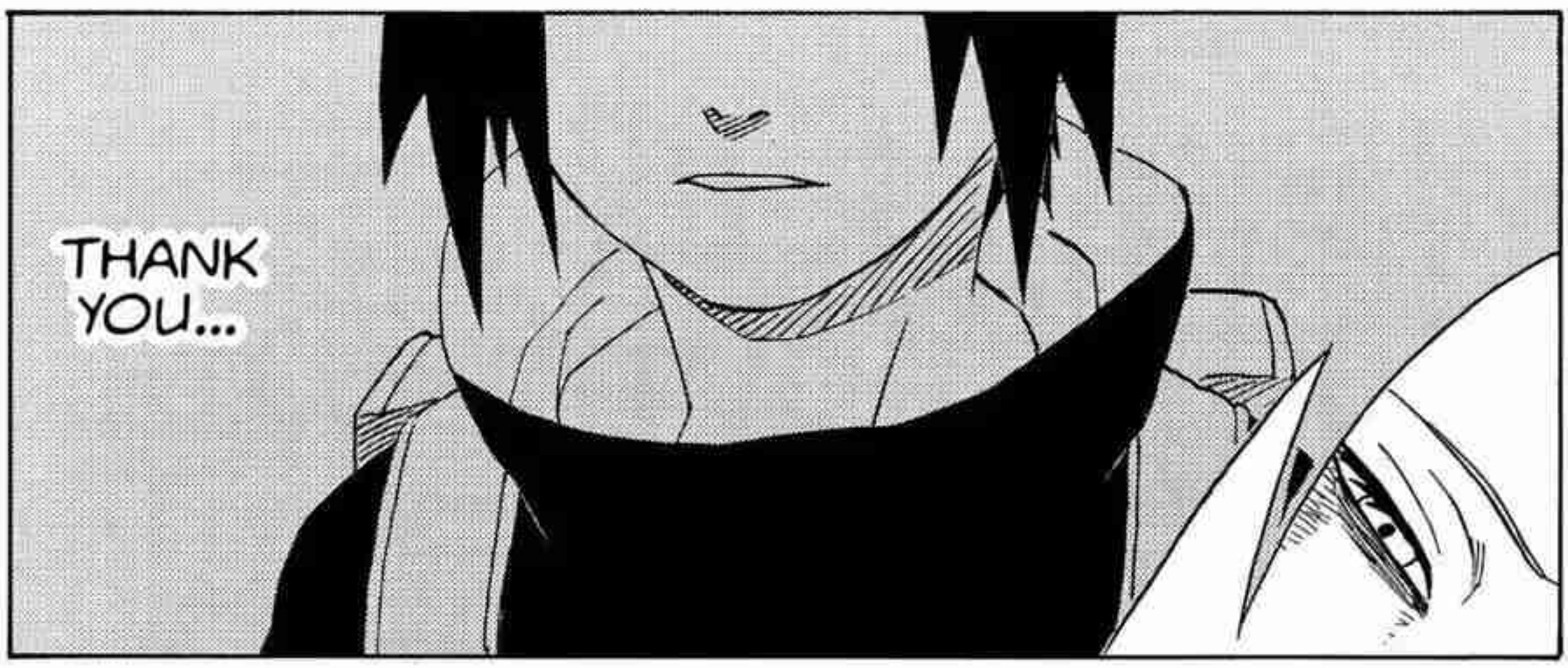





YO, WAKE UP!
YOU CAN'T SLEEP HERE. YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
?

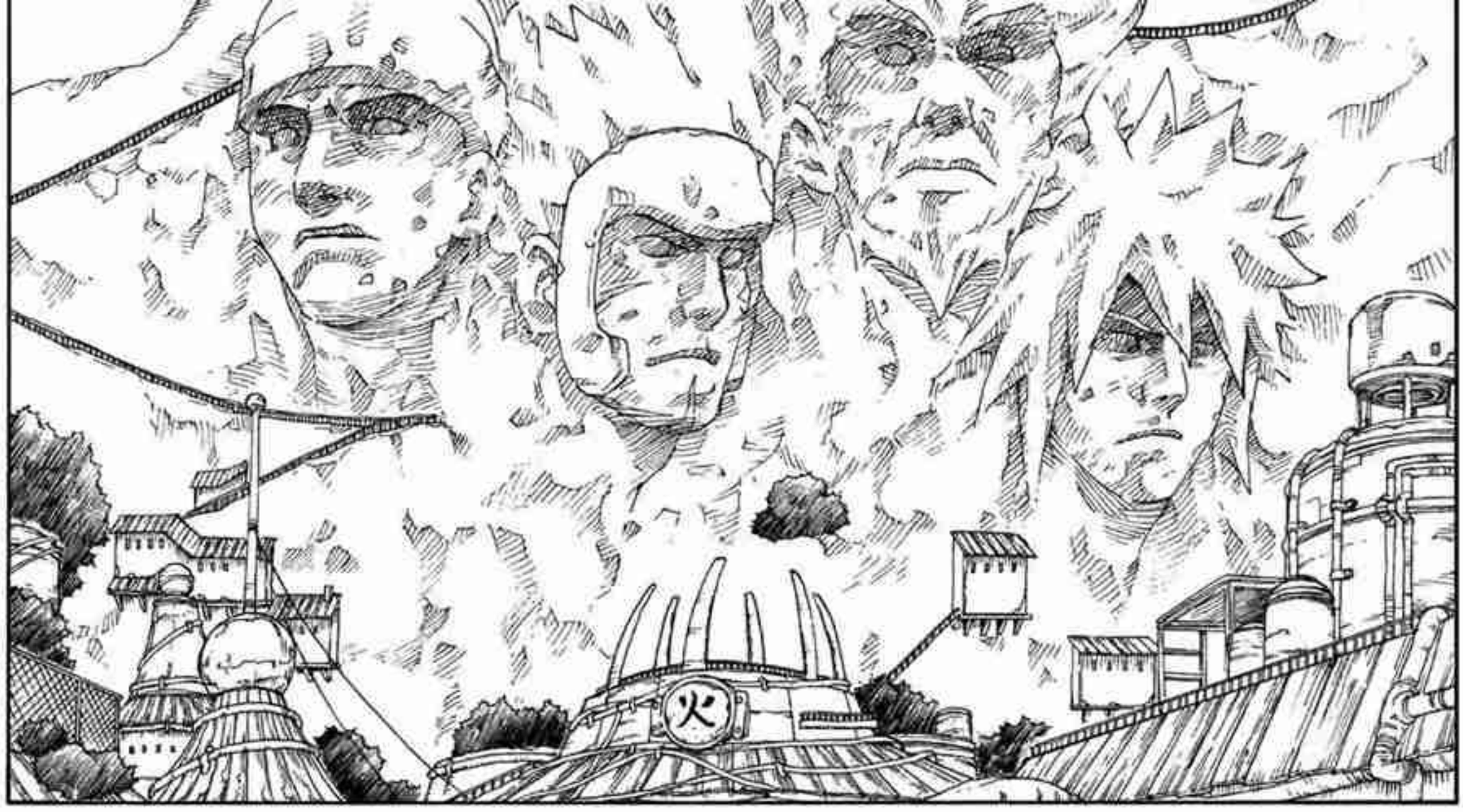
WHAT'S UP?

...

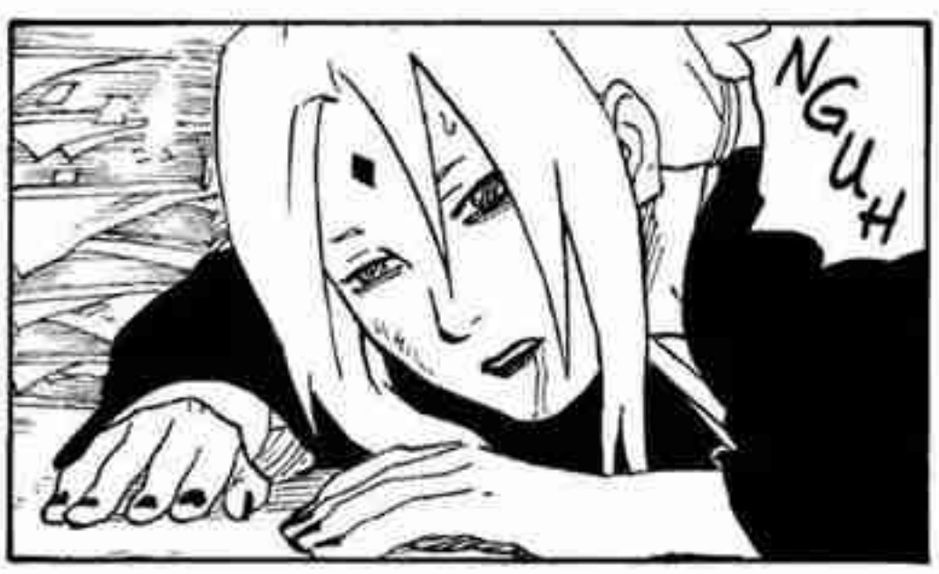

THANK YOU...

...
...
HUF
HUF
HUF

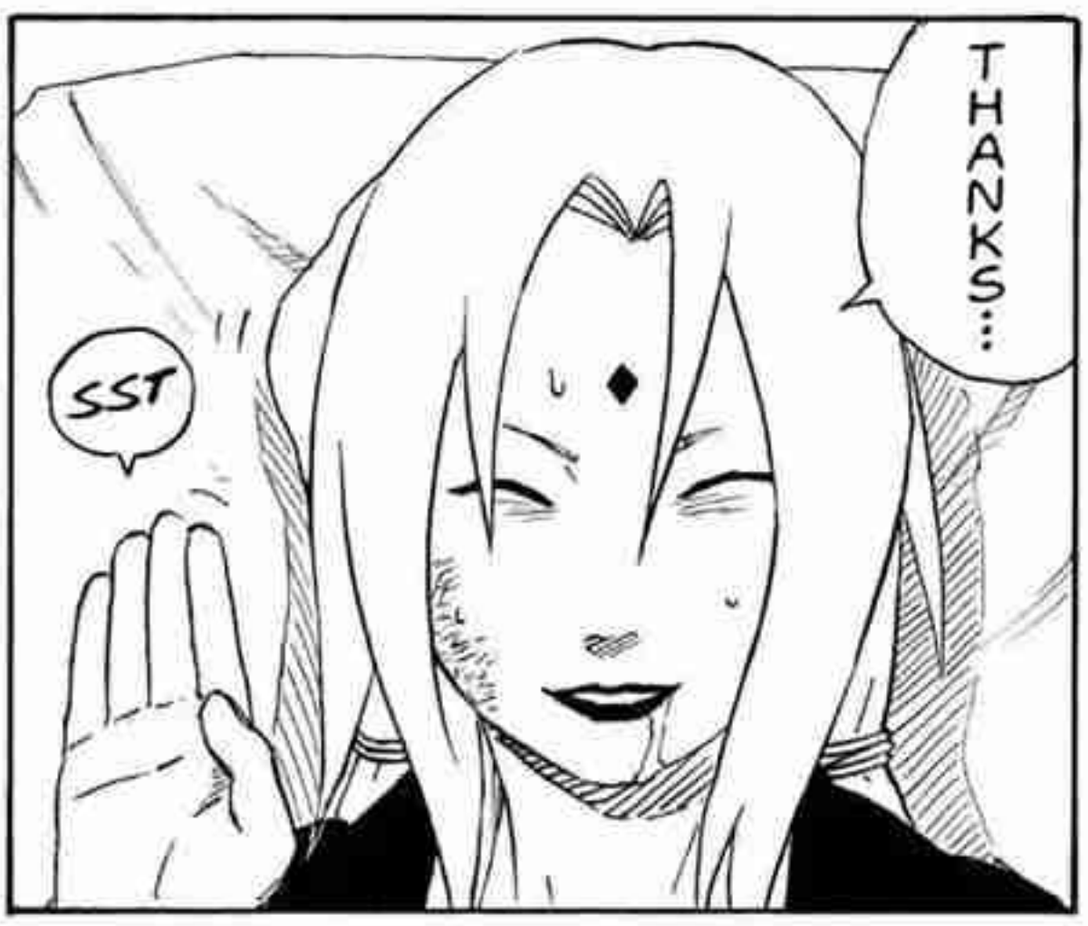
SASUKE!!
AGH


火

BAM
BAM


NGUH

ZZZ...
ZZZ...
景の


THANKS...
SST

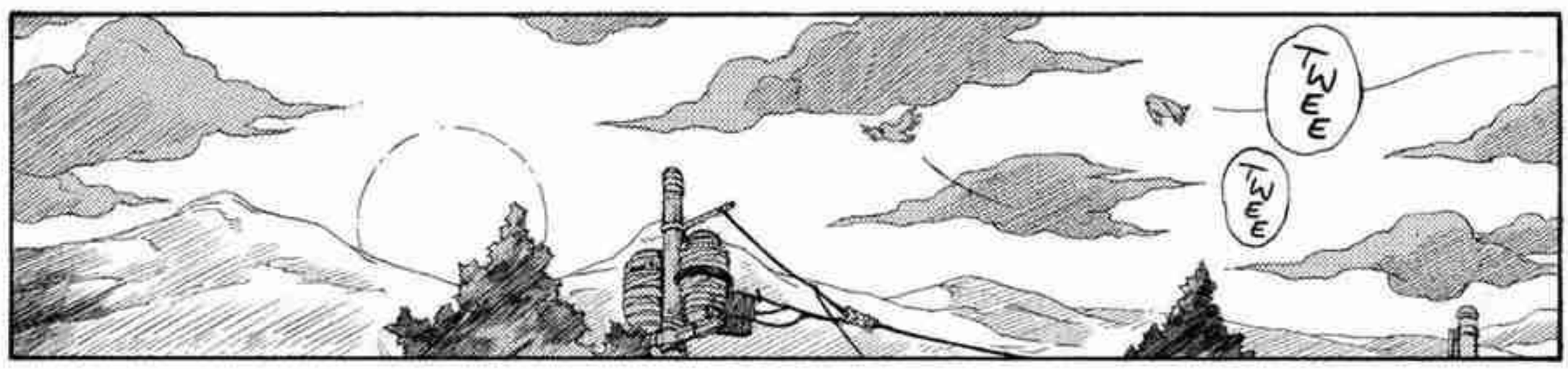
G'CHAK
!

READ
THIS
WAY

NEVER MIND THAT. LADY HOKAGE ...
THERE'S SOME-THING WE THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.

AHHHH!
FIFTH HOKAGE! YOU WERE SLEEPING, WEREN'T YOU?!
YOU GOT TO SLEEP IN WHILE YOU SENT US AFTER YOUR PAPERS!
...

OH?
...!

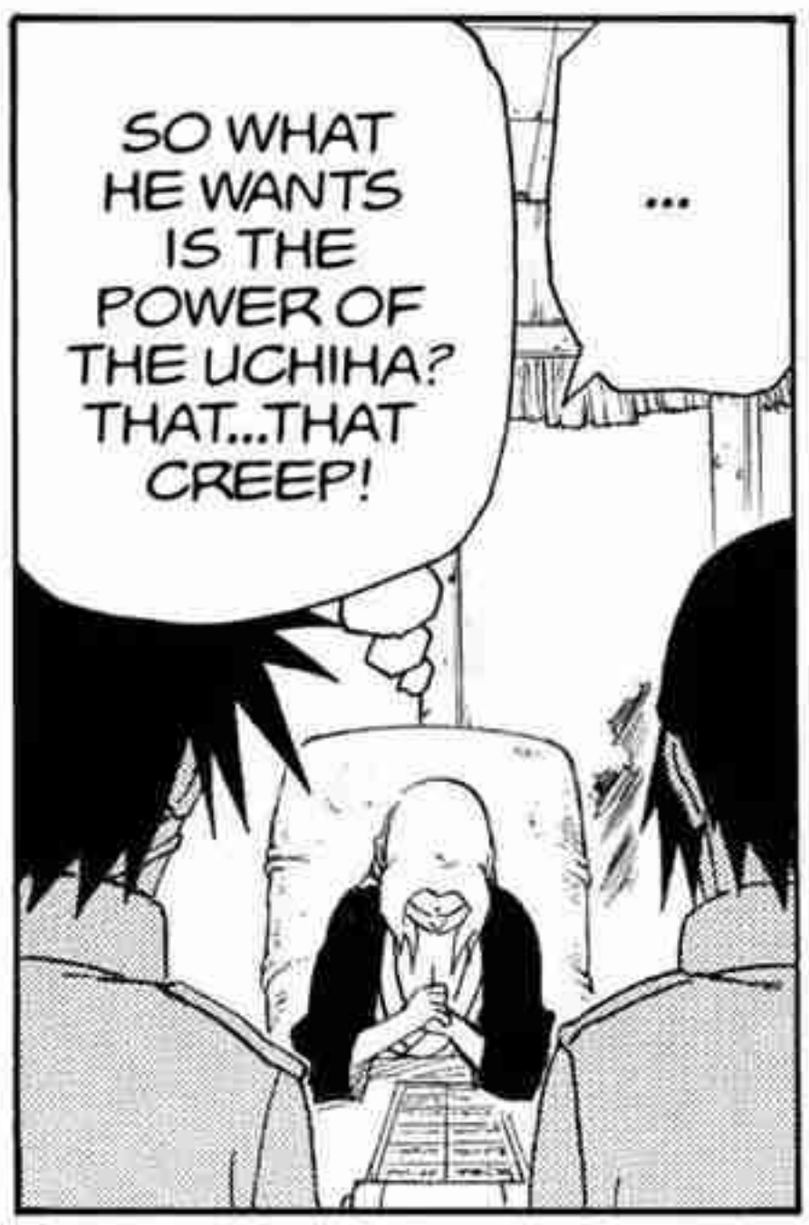

TWEE
TWEE

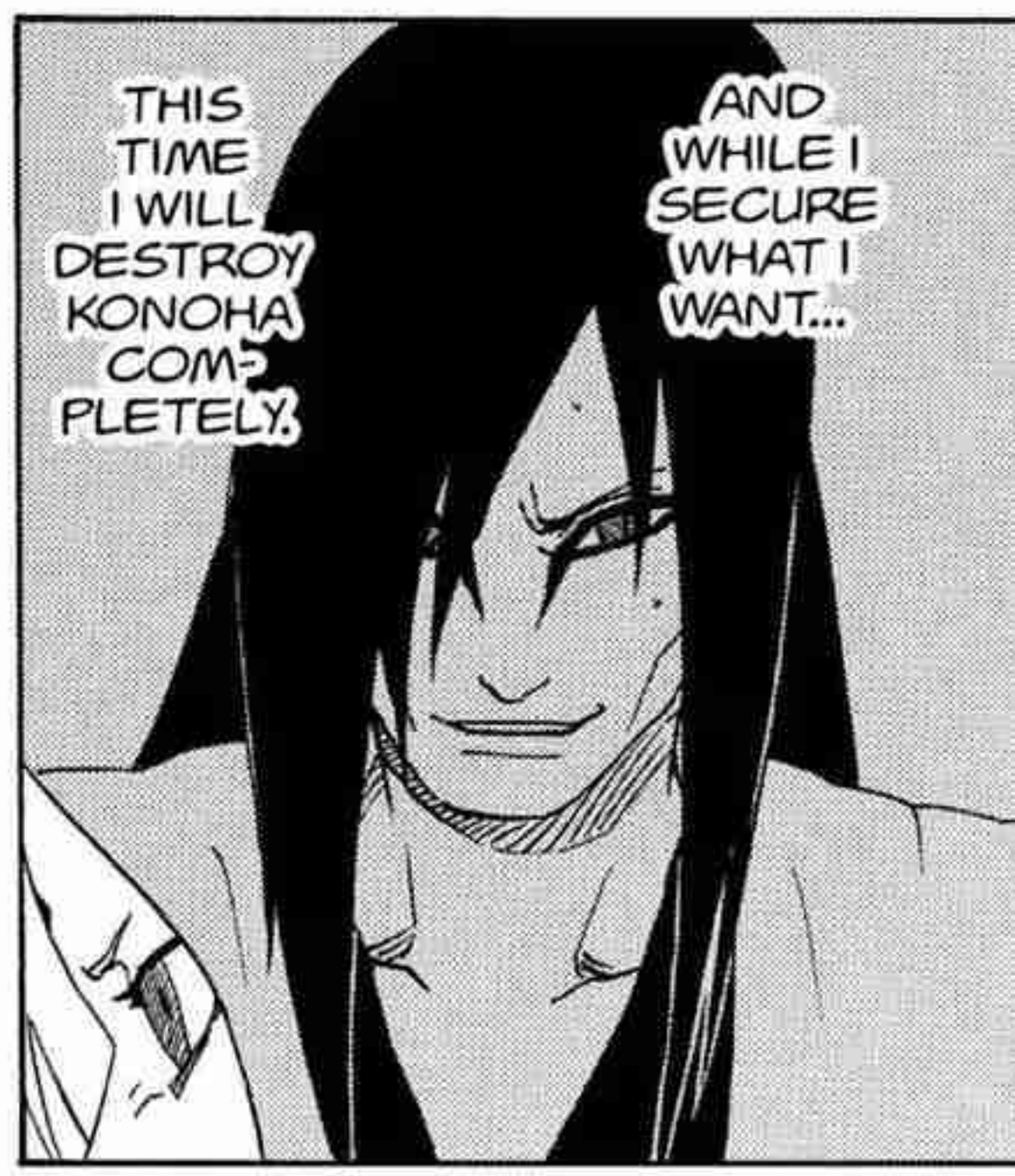
YES...
FROM WHAT HARUNO SAKURA TOLD US, THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.

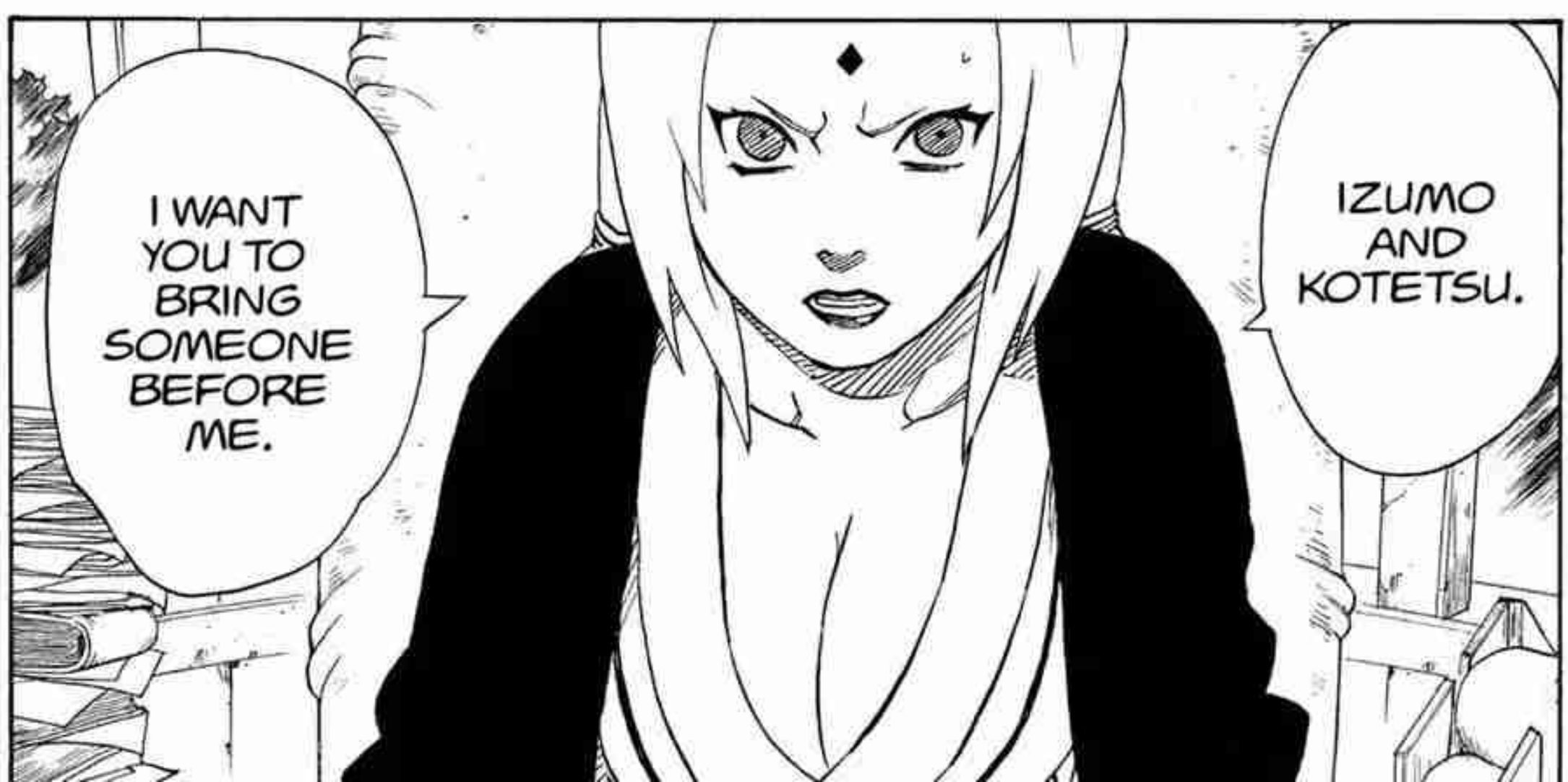
ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!
WHAT !!

HE'S ALREADY MAKING HIS MOVE...

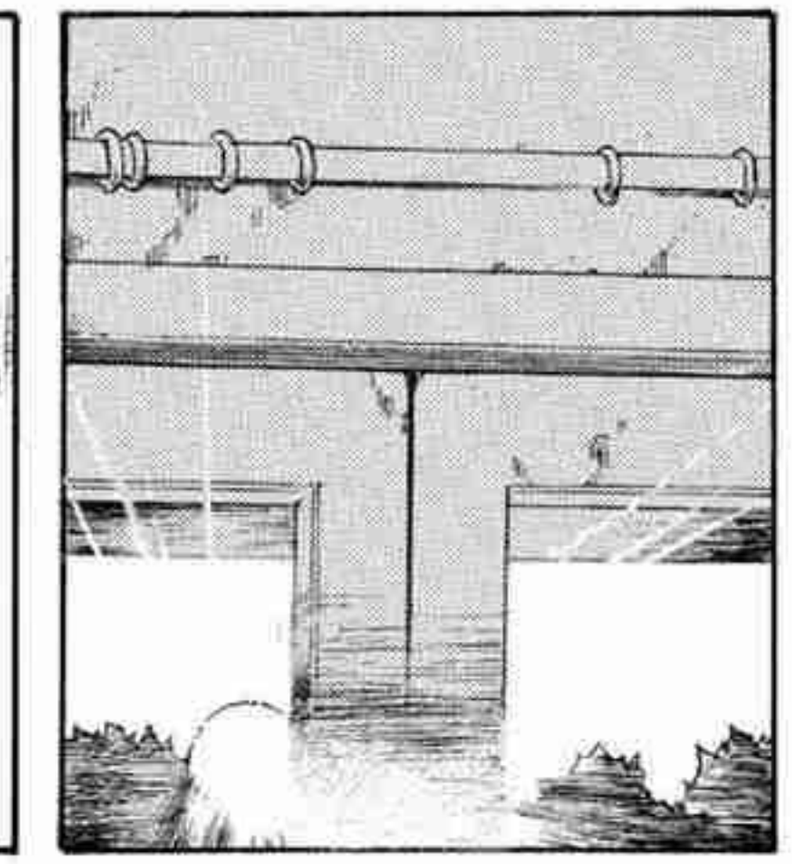
BLAST.

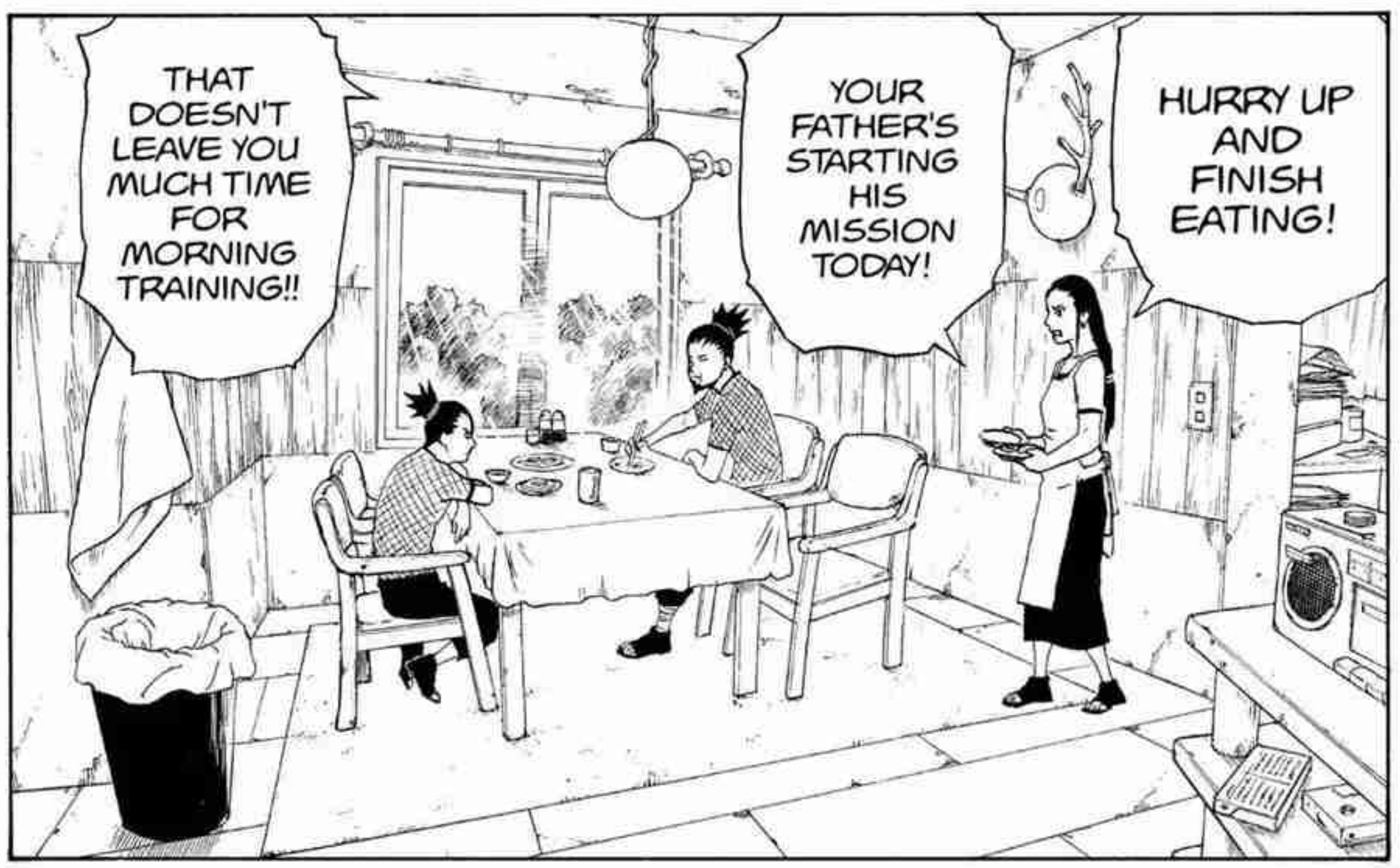






YAAAWWN...




THAT DOESN'T LEAVE YOU MUCH TIME FOR MORNING TRAINING!!
YOUR FATHER'S STARTING HIS MISSION TODAY!
HURRY UP AND FINISH EATING!

!
BING BONG
THIS EARLY? WHO ON EARTH...

ARR, THIS NAGGING. WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY...

MAKE THAT "YES," AND ONCE!
OKAY, OKAY...

WHAT DID YOU SEE IN SUCH A HIGH-STRUNG WOMAN?

MMM ?
HEY, DAD...

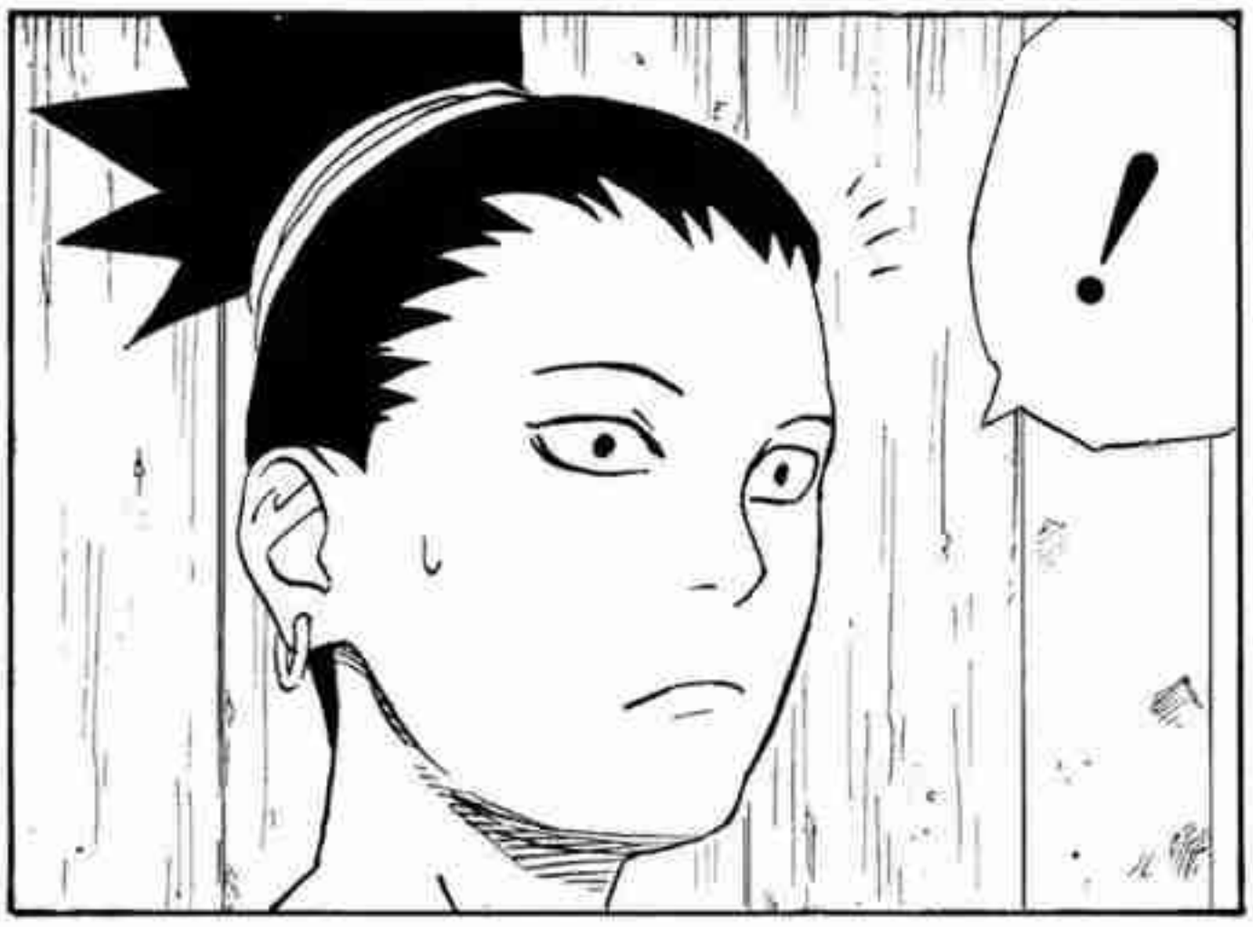
CHUF CHUF
...

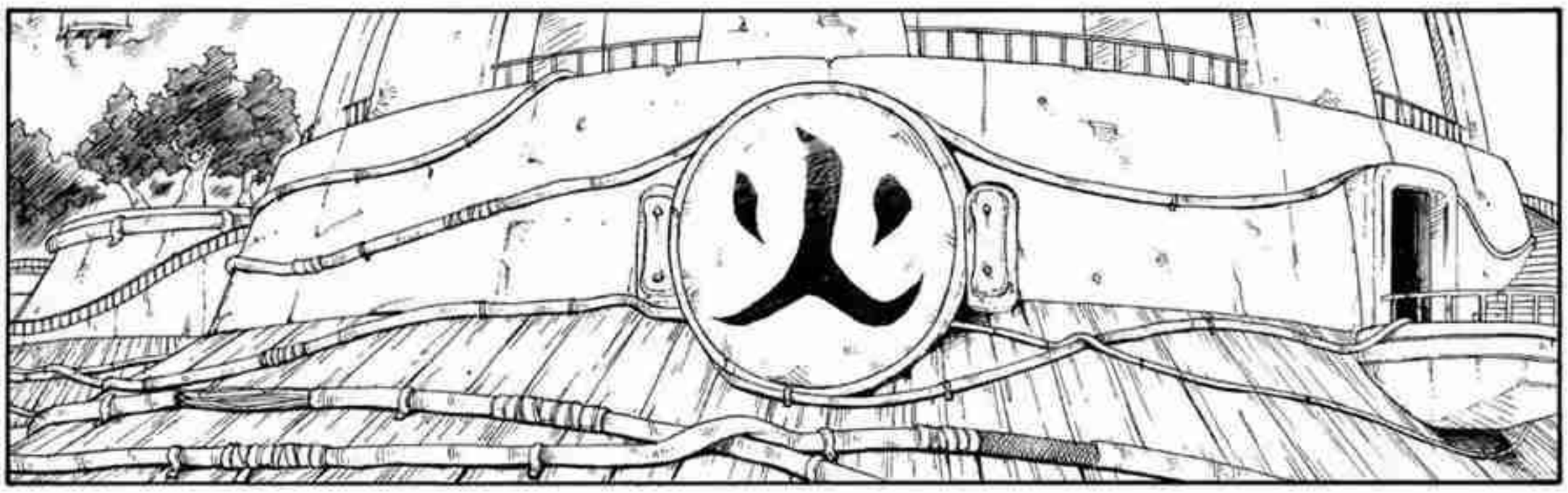
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE IT...
SFFP
WELL...
THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN EVEN SHE SMILES GENTLY...

IS THAT ALL?

...

READ THIS WAY





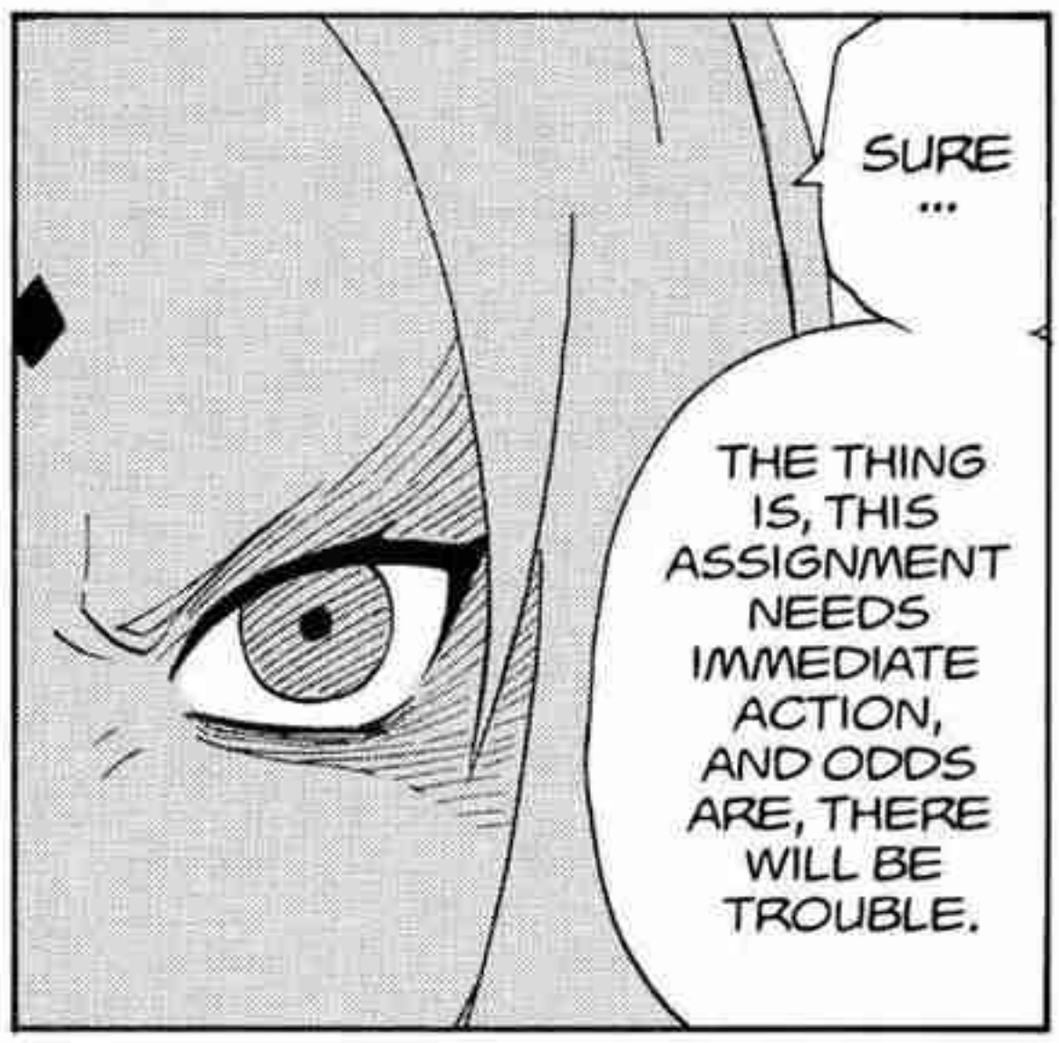
!

BECAUSE THAT CREEP OROCHIMARU HAS HIM IN HIS CLUTCHES!

HANG... ON...
...

SHIKAMARU... THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO SPECULATE ...
I'M ASSIGNING YOU YOUR FIRST MISSION.

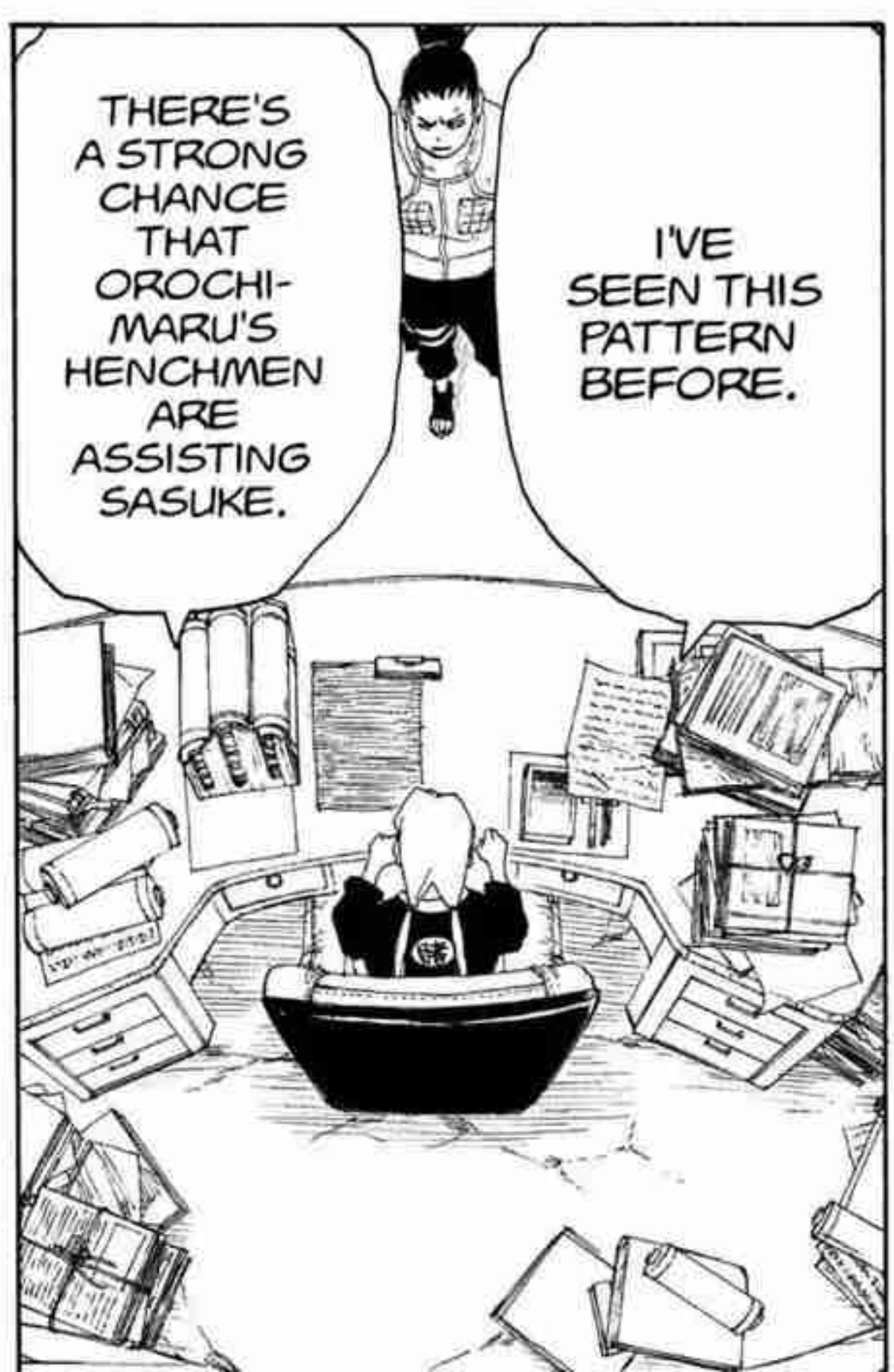
WHY WOULD SASUKE BE DRAWN TO SOMEONE SO EVIL?!
WAIT JUST A SECOND!


SURE ...
THE THING IS, THIS ASSIGNMENT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION, AND ODDS ARE, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.

IF NO ONE INTERFERES, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT MUCH TROUBLE.
BRING SASUKE BACK. IS THAT ALL?

WHAT?

MAN, THIS WHOLE BUSINESS IS BECOMING TIRESOME.
...


THERE'S A STRONG CHANCE THAT OROCHI-MARU'S HENCHMEN ARE ASSISTING SASUKE.
I'VE SEEN THIS PATTERN BEFORE.

...A SMALL, FOUR-MAN TEAM, COMPRISED SOLELY OF JÔNIN AND CHÛNIN.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THIS MISSION WOULD CALL FOR...

AMONG MY PEERS, HE WAS OUTSTANDING IN EVERY RESPECT. HE WAS CERTAINLY SUPERIOR TO ME...
BUT HIM...

ASIDE FROM THE BARE MINIMUM NEEDED HERE IN THE VILLAGE, MOST OF THE JÔNIN ARE AWAY ON OTHER MISSIONS.
YOU KNOW WHY. ASUMA, KAKASHI, EVEN YOUR FATHER...
KREEK

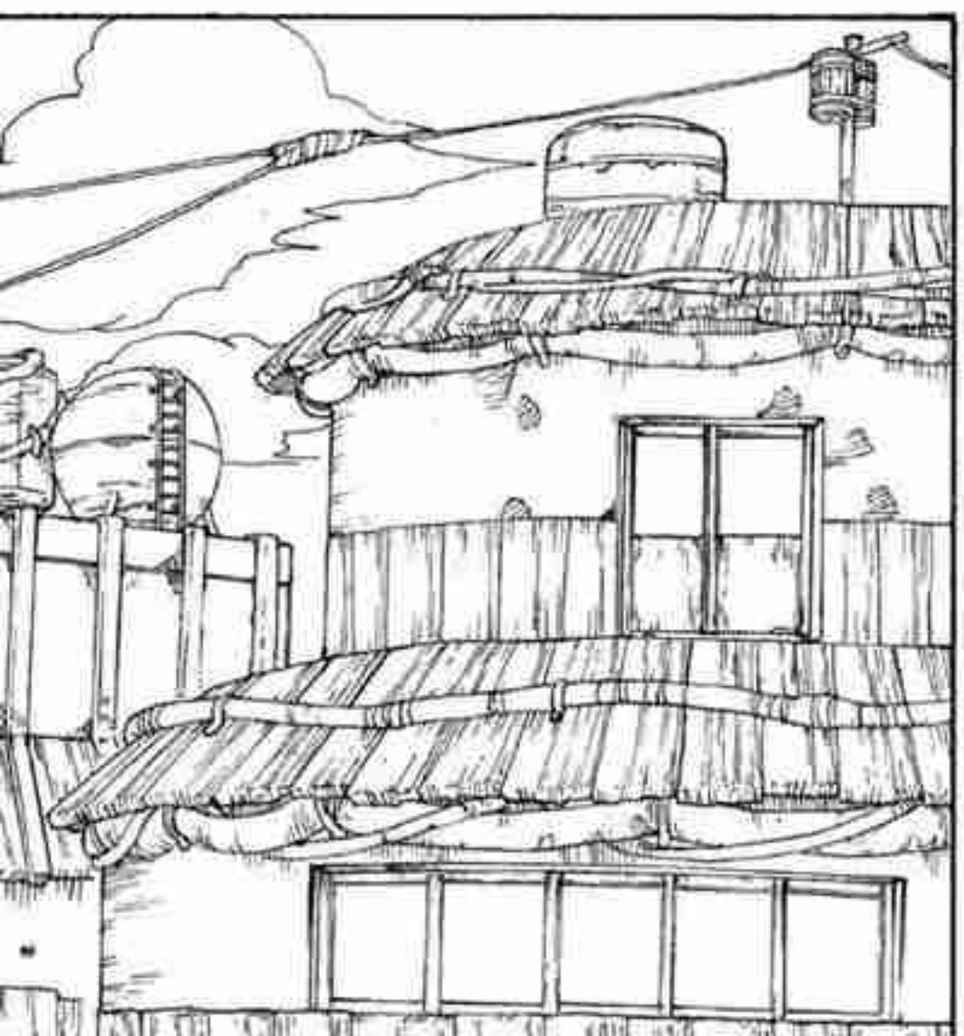
WH... WHY NOT?!
!

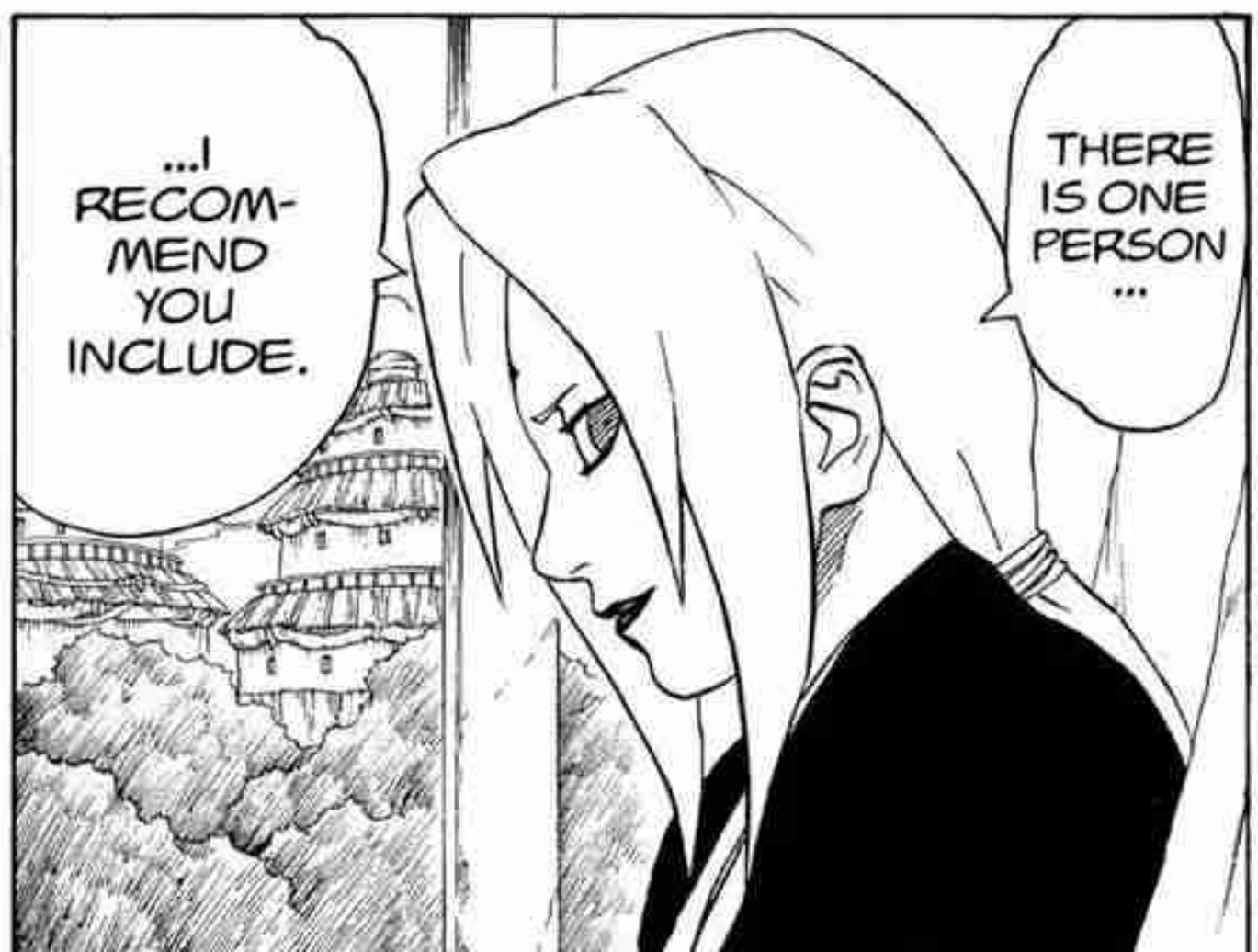
I CAN'T GRANT THAT...
...

...GATHER AS MANY GENIN AS YOU DEEM NECESSARY, AND LEAVE THE VILLAGE.
...
WITHIN THE NEXT HALF AN HOUR...

READ THIS WAY
SWP

WELL, THIS IS A DRAG... STILL, I CAN'T JUST IGNORE IT.
I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

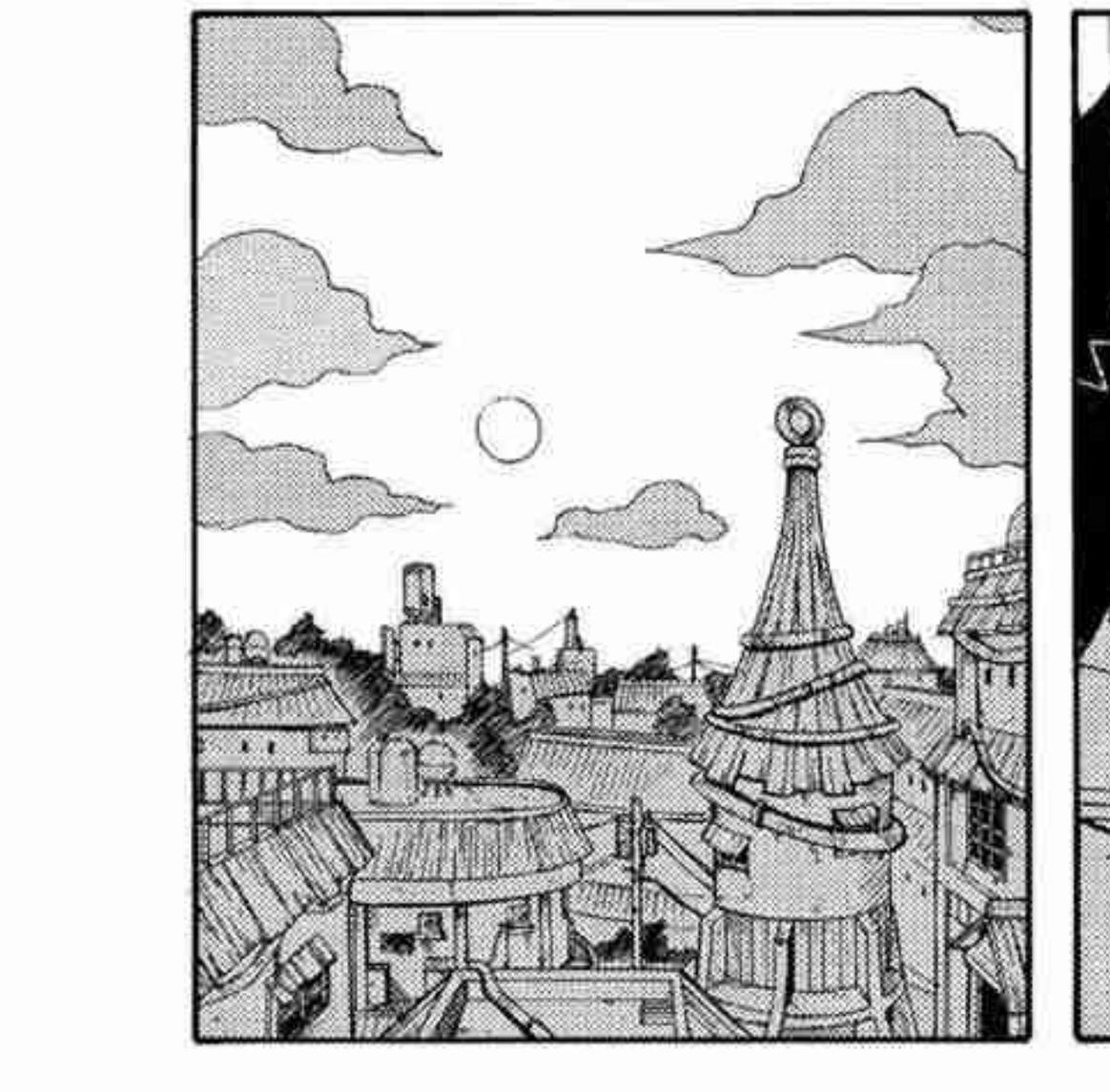



...I RECOM-MEND YOU INCLUDE.
THERE IS ONE PERSON ...

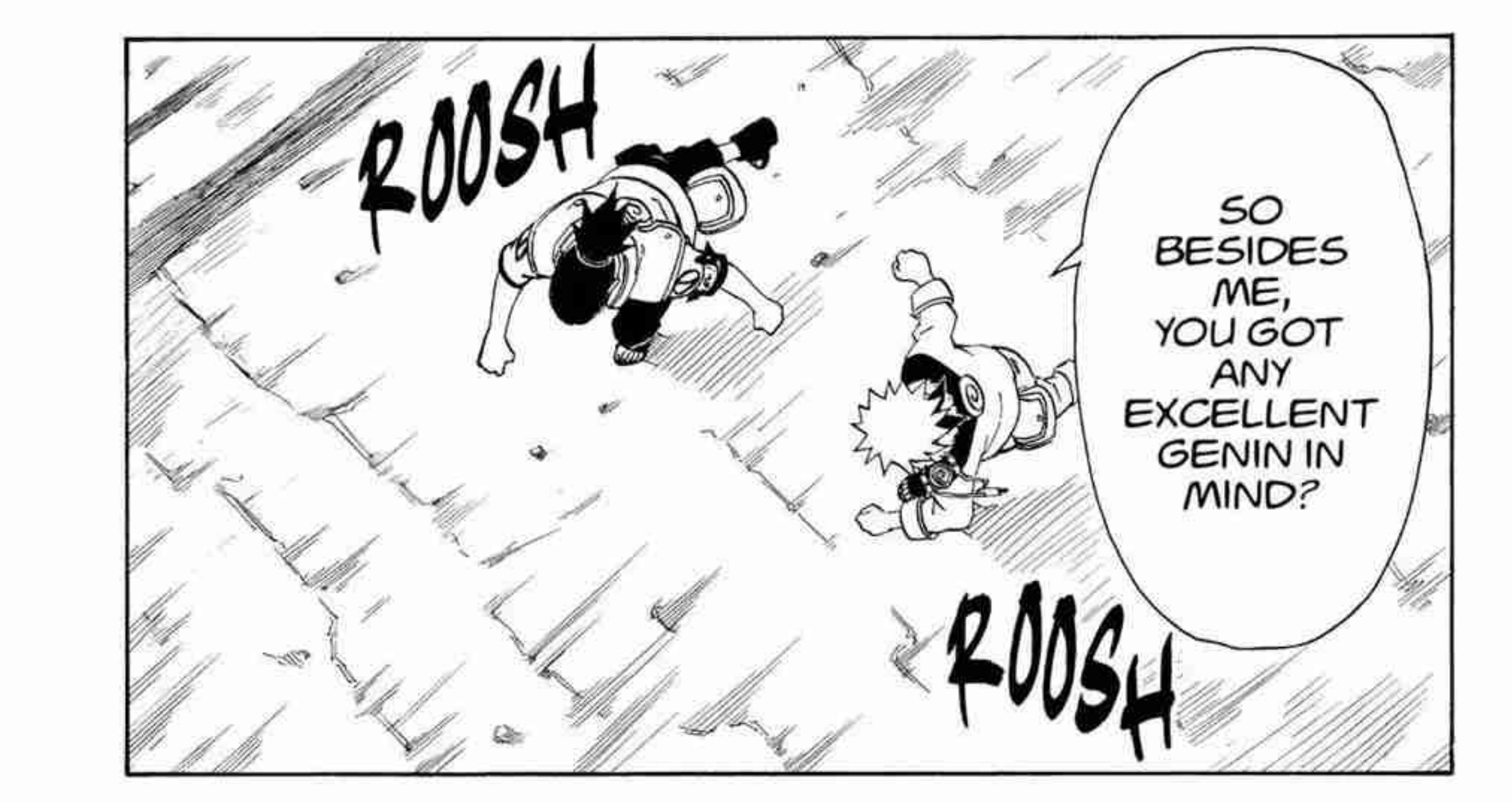
YOU'RE KID-DING ME!!

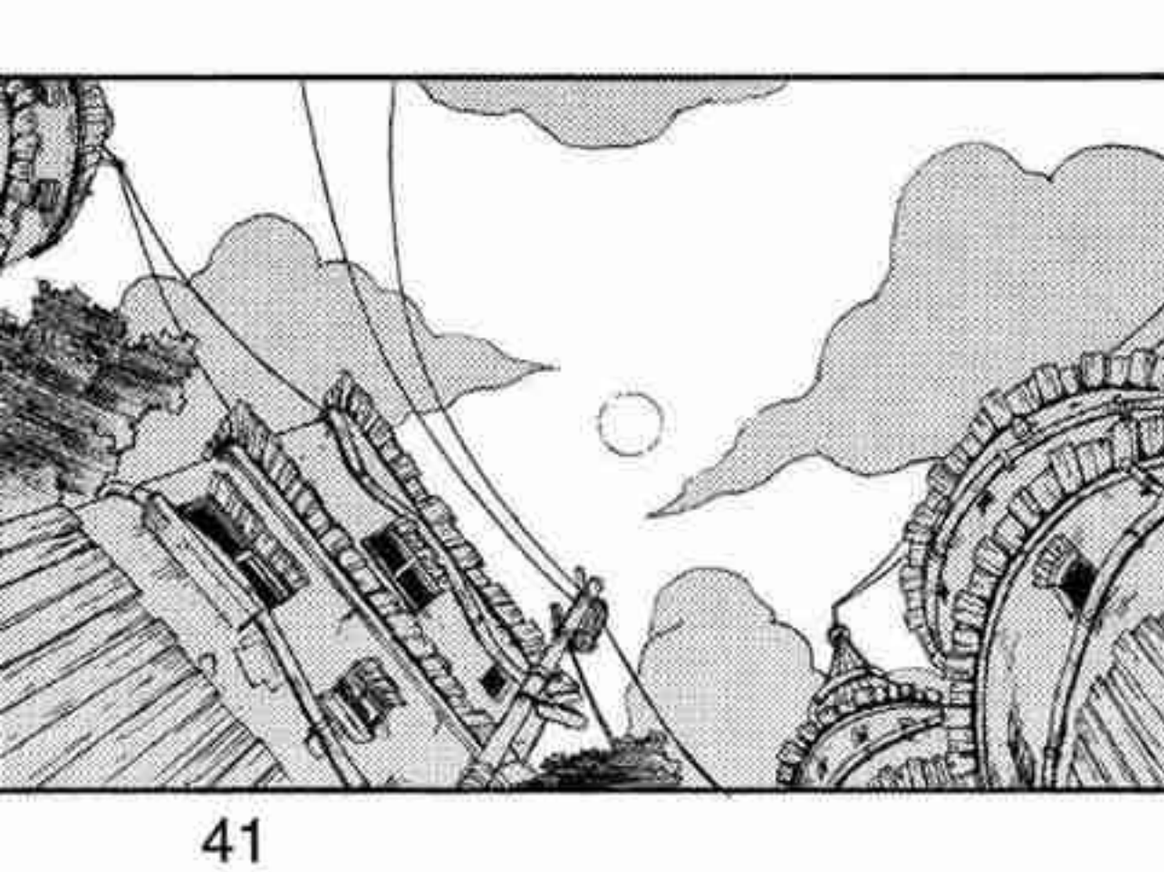
WHAAAT!

READ
THIS
WAY



WAIT JUST A MINUTE! I'LL JUST CHANGE REAL FAST.
WSSH


ROOSH
SO BESIDES ME, YOU GOT ANY EXCELLENT GENIN IN MIND?
ROOSH



A FEW...

GEAR UP PRONTO, AND BE AT THE FRONT GATE IN TEN MINUTES.
OKAY, CHOJI.
...

MUNCH
MUNCH

I WAS THINKING MAYBE SHINO?
"EXCELLENT," RIGHT?

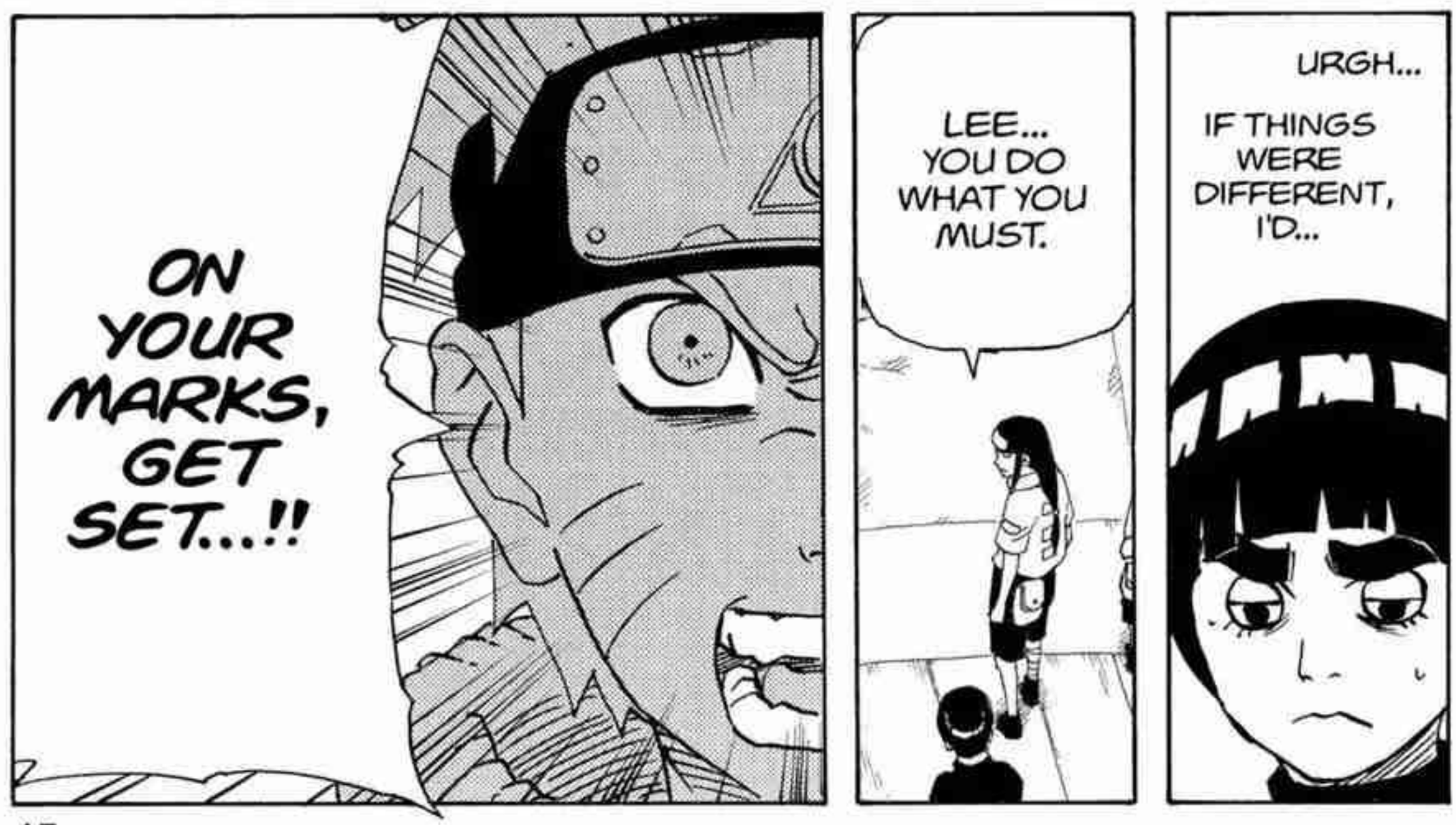
SHINO

CHOJI'S BEEN MY TEAMMATE FOR AGES.
HE'S THE BEST FOR ANY TEAM.

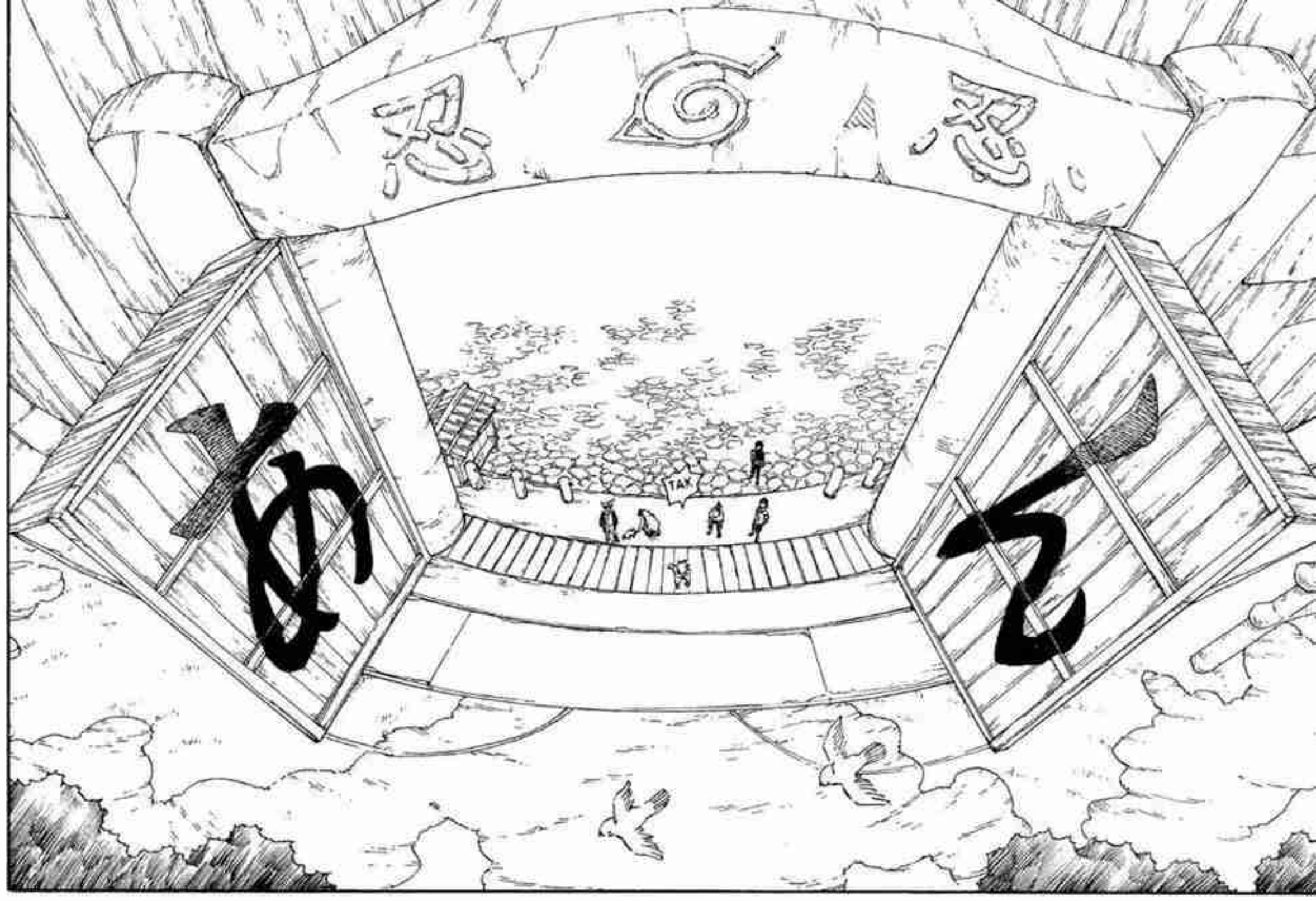
READ THIS WAY
!
!
!
SHINO'S OFF ON A SPECIAL MISSION WITH HIS FATHER.
WOOF WOOF!
CATCHING THAT EARLY STROLL IS PAYING OFF BETTER THAN EXPECTED, IT SEEMS.
I HAVE SOMEONE I MIGHT SUGGEST.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVER-HEAR.

TIME'S UP.

WE'VE GOT FIVE SO FAR...



Number 183: The Promise


TAX

FOLLOW ME, MEN!!
YAAAH!

YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
...
SOME-HOW... I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
WOOM

I'M THE LEADER OF THIS SQUAD.
NARUTO... OKAY, LOOK...
I MEAN, IT'S A DRAG, BUT...

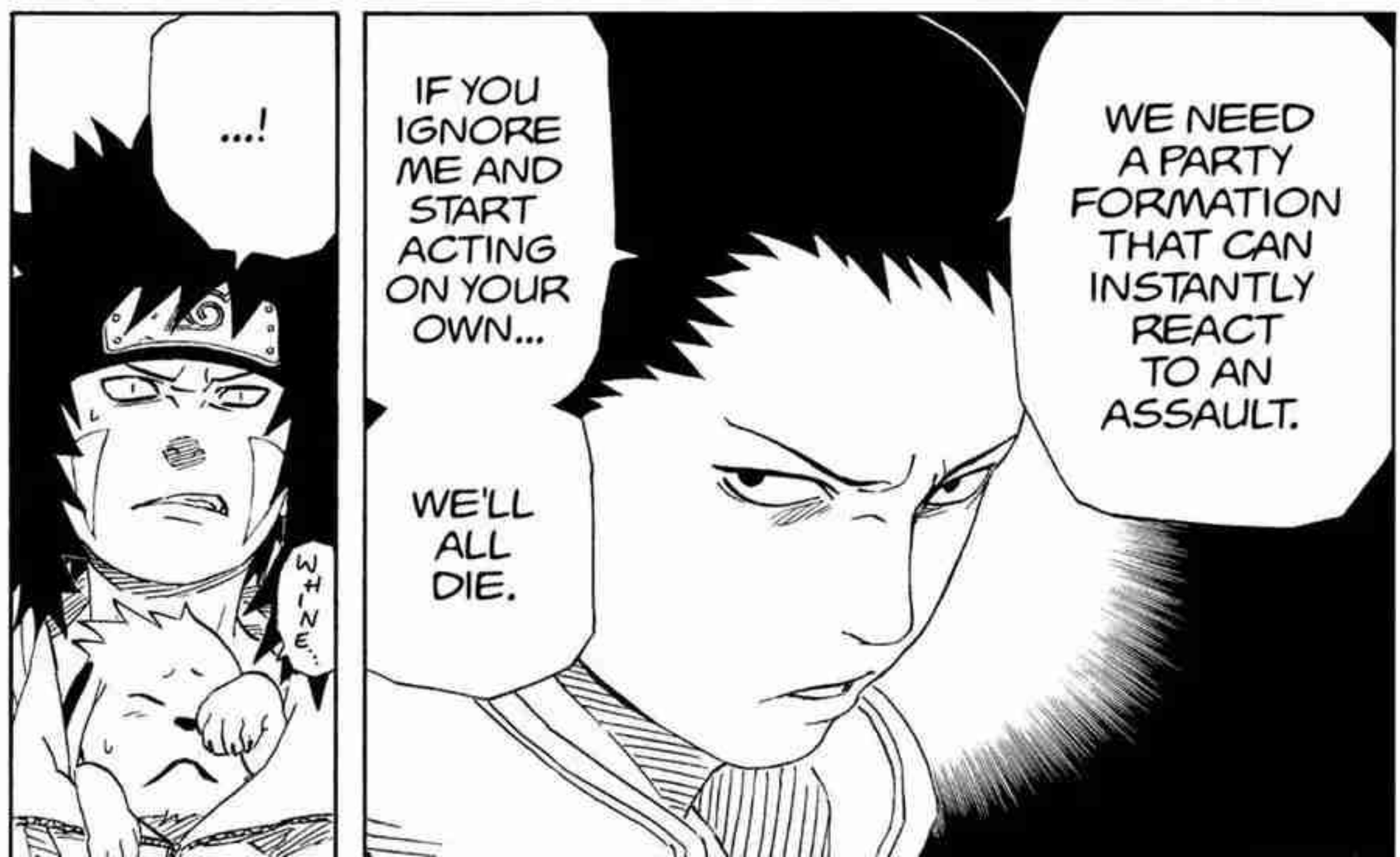
...
...
...

IF THE TOP BRASS SEES HIM AS SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD, IT'S NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION IT.
LOOK, GUYS, SHIKAMARU IS A CHÛNIN ALREADY!
YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE HIS AUTHORITY.

STILL...BEING ORDERED AROUND BY SHIKAMARU, WHOSE HEART CLEARLY ISN'T IN IT...
AND YOU ACTING THE BOSS IS SUPPOSED TO HELP, NARUTO?
THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT EITHER...
SST
WOOF

THAT MEANS IT'S EASIER FOR THE ENEMY TO ANTICIPATE US.
SINCE THIS IS A RESCUE MISSION, WE'RE THE PURSUER.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, WE'RE FACING A LIKELY AMBUSH.
FINE. SO DETAIL US SOME PLAN OR STRATEGY THAT SHOWS US WHAT THEY SEE IN YOU.
...


...!
WHINE...
IF YOU IGNORE ME AND START ACTING ON YOUR OWN...
WE'LL ALL DIE.
WE NEED A PARTY FORMATION THAT CAN INSTANTLY REACT TO AN ASSAULT.

FIRST, THE MOST IMPORTANT FORWARD GUARD WILL BE...

YOU, KIBA.

SNAP

SNAP

WE'LL GO OUT SINGLE-FILE.

ALSO, A SINGLE-FILE FORMATION IS VULNERABLE TO FRONTAL ATTACK...

YOUR PAIRING WITH AKAMARU MAKES YOU DOUBLY EFFECTIVE.

!

YOU CAN EVEN DETECT AND DISARM BOOBY TRAPS, WHERE THE ENEMY HAS TOUCHED THEM.

YOU SPENT ALL YEAR WANDERING THE LAND OF FIRE WITH AKAMARU, SO IF ANYONE KNOWS THE TERRAIN, IT'S YOU...

PLUS, GIVEN YOUR ACUTE SENSE OF SMELL, WE CAN TRACK SASUKE BY SCENT.

YOU'VE GOT THE BEST INITIATIVE, SO YOU'RE BEST PLACED AT THE HEART. YOU CAN SUPPORT EITHER THE FRONT OR BACK, AS NEED BE.

YOU'RE THE HINGE OF OUR BACKUP... ESPECIALLY GIVEN YOUR SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS...

THE CENTER... THE THIRD IS YOU, NARUTO.

WHATEVER THE SITUATION, I CAN RESPOND BY ORDERING KIBA DIRECTLY FROM BEHIND.

MEANWHILE I CAN USE HAND SIGNALS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF YOU.

AND THEN...I, PLATOON LEADER, COME SECOND.

REAR GUARD IS THE TOUGHEST JOB OF ALL.

WITH YOUR BYAKUGAN, YOU CAN ENSURE THAT OUR SQUAD HAS NO BLIND SPOTS.

FINALLY, BRINGING UP THE REAR... IS NEJI.

CHOJI, YOU'RE FOURTH UP.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR JOB IS IN THE FOLLOW-UP STRIKE.

YOU DON'T HAVE SPEED, BUT YOU HAVE THE GREATEST STRIKING POWER. ONCE KIBA, NARUTO AND I LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK, YOU TAKE THE STAGE AND CLOBBER THE ENEMY WITH A FATAL BLOW.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

SHFF

SST

HERE. LET ME DRAW UP A DIAGRAM.

NARUTO LEFT, CHOJI RIGHT.

AND NEJI... YOU USE YOUR BYAKUGAN TO COVER THE WHOLE AREA BEHIND US.

Neji

Choji

Naruto

Me

Kiba

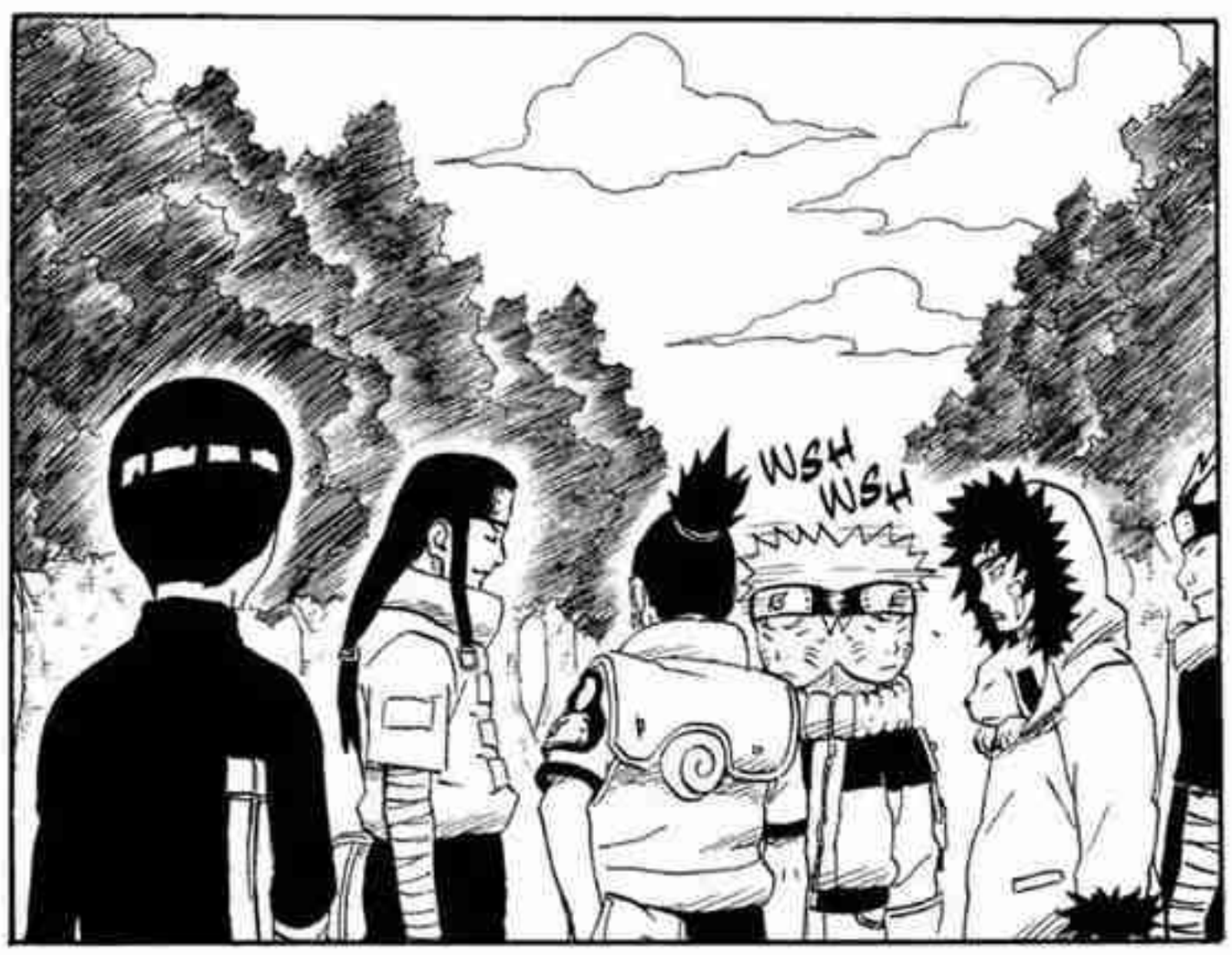
VERIFY YOUR TARGET AREA. KIBA FRONT.

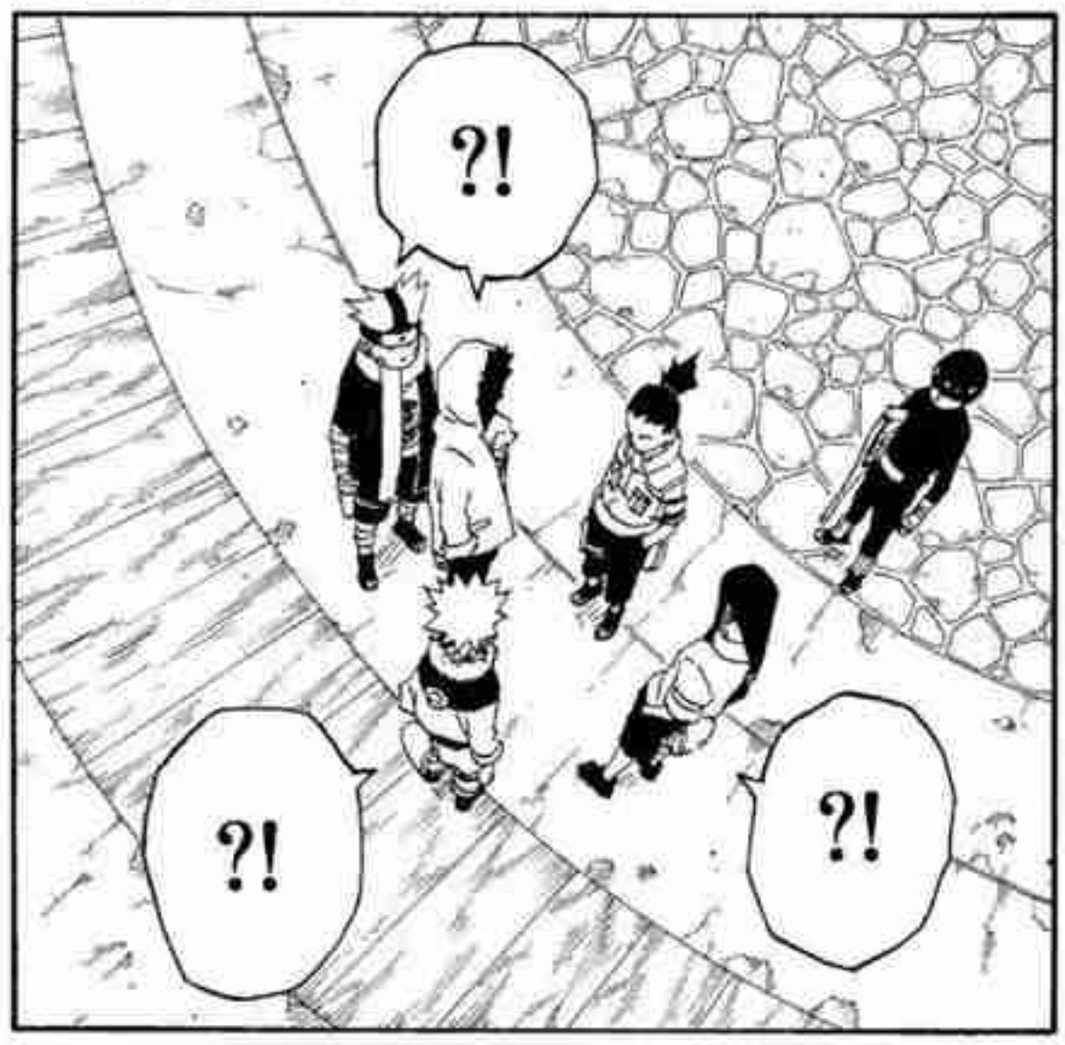
ME GREATER FORWARD AREA.

LET ME SEE ALL YOUR NINJA TOOLS NOW.

IT'LL JUST TAKE THREE MINUTES.

I ALSO NEED TO KNOW OUR CURRENT BATTERY.




?!
?!
?!

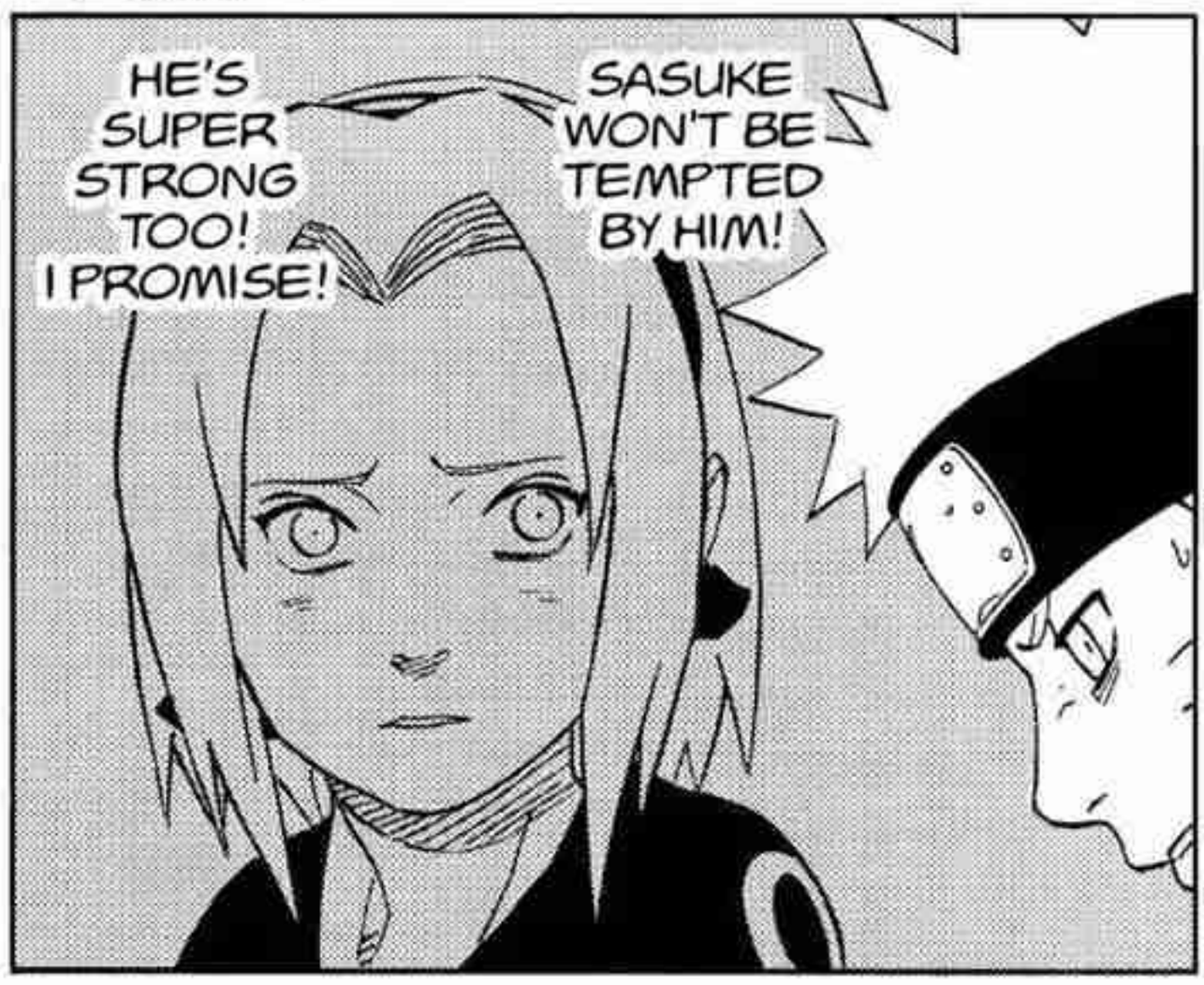
I DON'T EVEN LIKE HIM, REALLY.
IT'S NOT THAT SASUKE IS MY BEST FRIEND...

THERE-FORE I WILL STAKE MY LIFE TO RESCUE HIM.
THAT'S THE KONOHA WAY.
BUT LIKE US, SASUKE IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHA-GAKURE.
HE IS OUR COMRADE!

EVEN I CAN'T COMPLAIN ...

BEYOND THAT...

...WHEN ALL YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ME.


HE'S SUPER STRONG TOO! I PROMISE!
SASUKE WON'T BE TEMPTED BY HIM!

...

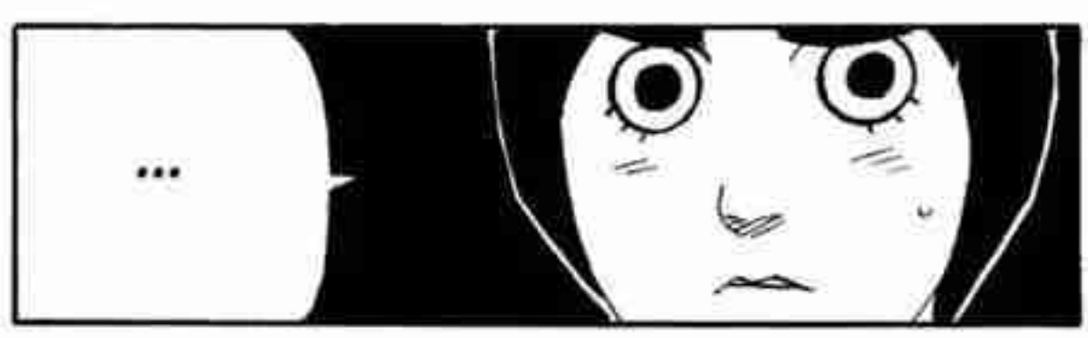
LET'S GET MOVING.
ALL RIGHT!

IT'S NUTS, SASUKE! WHY DID YOU...?
...

WAIT!

SAKURA!

...
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU ON THIS MISSION.
LADY HOKAGE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.


...

EVEN YOU COULDN'T... PERSUADE SASUKE, RIGHT?

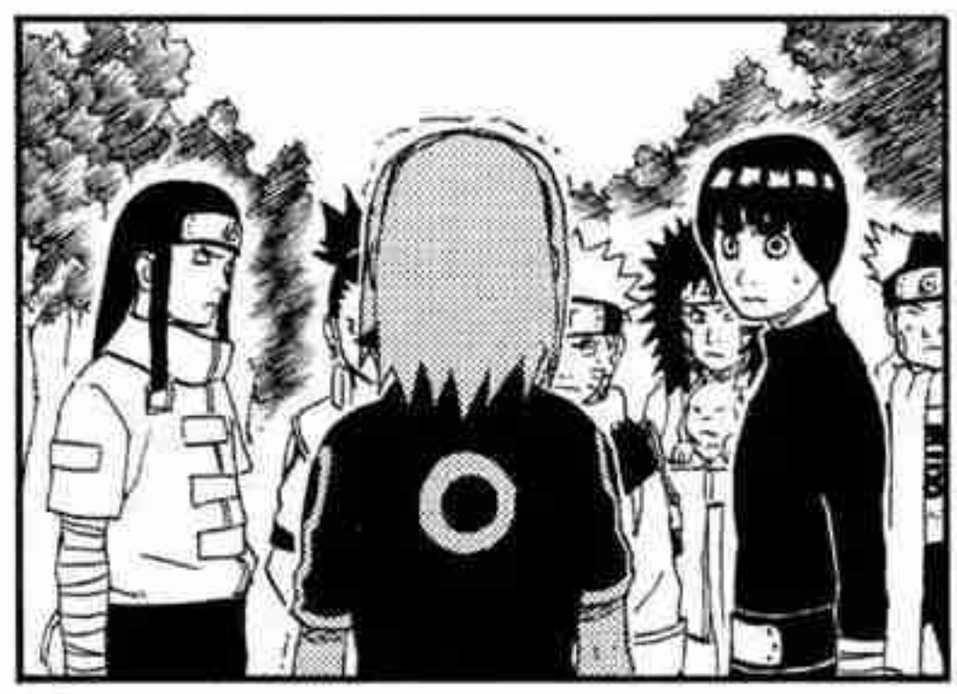
SAKURA... YOUR ROLE HAS ENDED.
OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO PERSUADE HIM WITH FORCE...

?!

SAKURA, DOES THAT MEAN... YOU...

...

SAKURA ...



SO NOW... NOW THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN... STOP HIM... SAVE HIM...
...IS YOU.
I COULDN'T DO IT!
I... I COULDN'T STOP HIM!

JUST... YOU, NARUTO.

NARUTO, THIS... THIS IS MY WISH... OF A LIFETIME ...
PLEASE... PLEASE BRING SASUKE BACK...
ALIP
ALIP

SAKURA, YOU SURE DO CARE ABOUT SASUKE...
GRIN

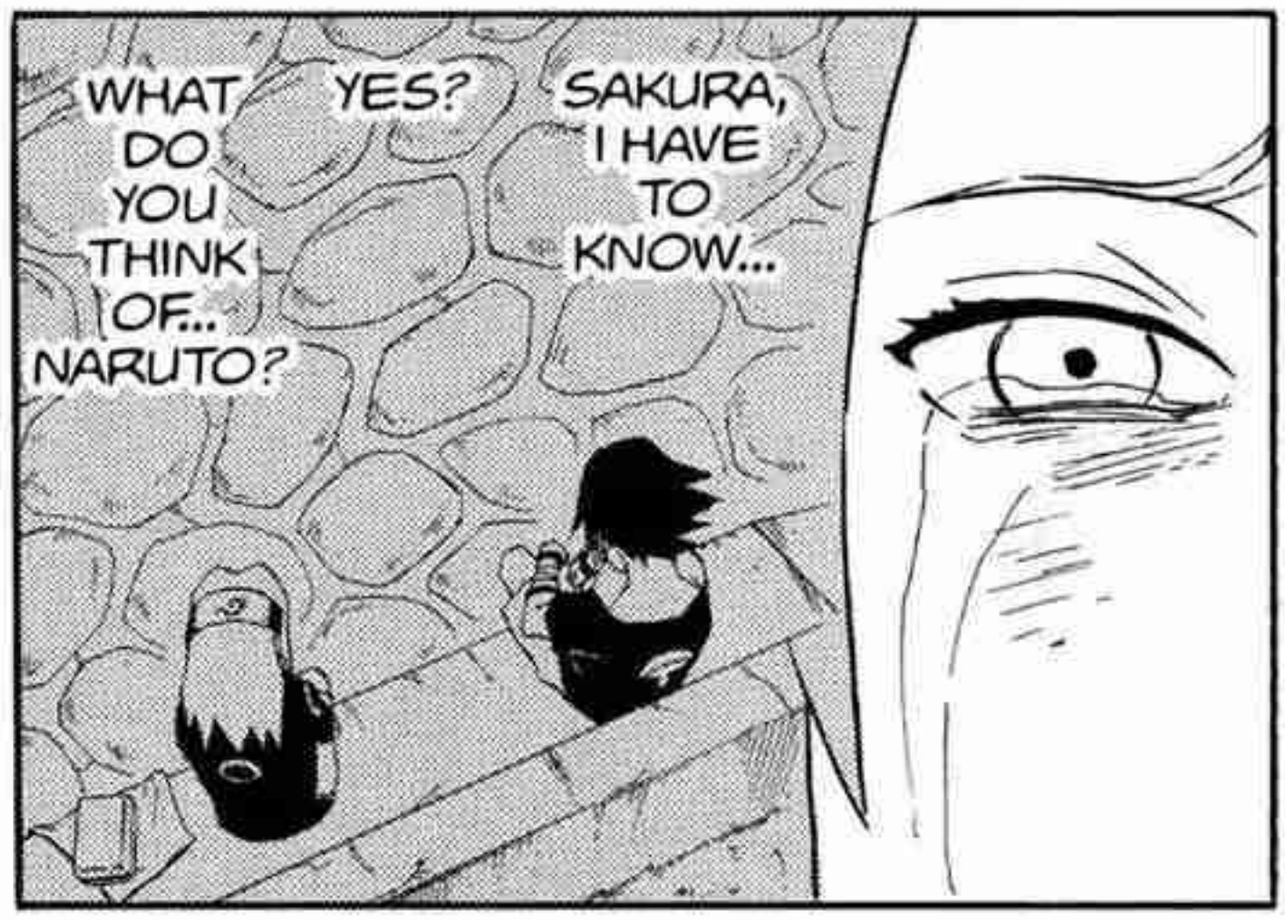
...

...

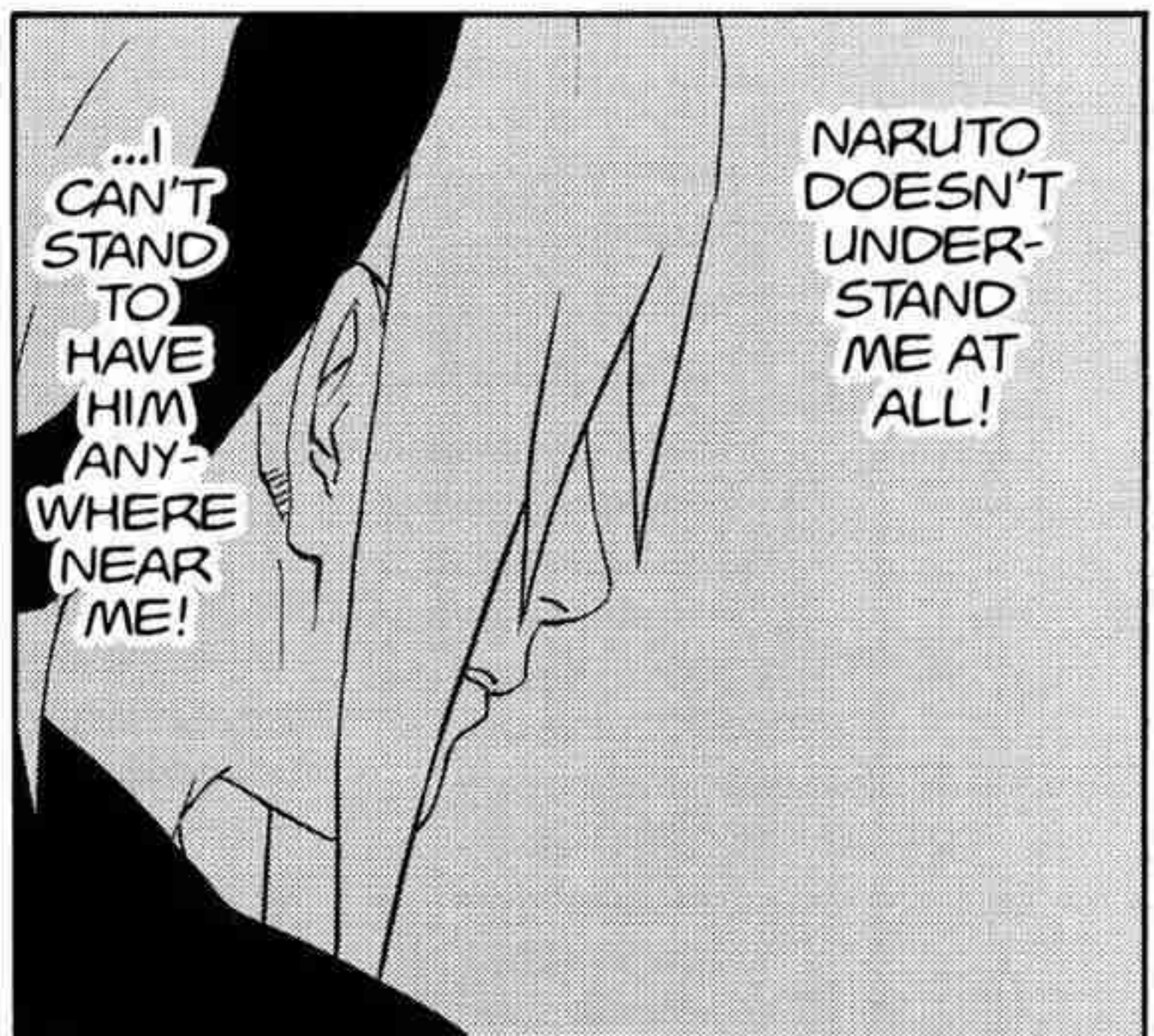
I KNOW ALL TOO WELL...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW.

...

HE RUINS EVERY-THING... HE ENJOYS TOR-MENTING ME!
...IF HE HAD HIS WAY, I'D NEVER FIND LOVE OR HAPPI-NESS...


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF... NARUTO?
YES?
SAKURA, I HAVE TO KNOW...

HIC...
SNF...


...I CAN'T STAND TO HAVE HIM ANY-WHERE NEAR ME!
NARUTO DOESN'T UNDER-STAND ME AT ALL!

THANK YOU...

NARUTO ...

IT'S OKAY. I'LL BRING BACK SASUKE FOR SURE!

THAT'S MY **PROMISE** OF A LIFE-TIME!!

AND STILL YOU ALWAYS HELPED ME...
HEE HEE

YOU SAW ALL ALONG...
HIC...
HIC...

THAT'S MY SHINOBI WAY!
HMPH! I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD...

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO MAKE PROMISES LIKE THAT?!
HEY, NARUTO!

LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
ALL RIGHT!

YEAH!

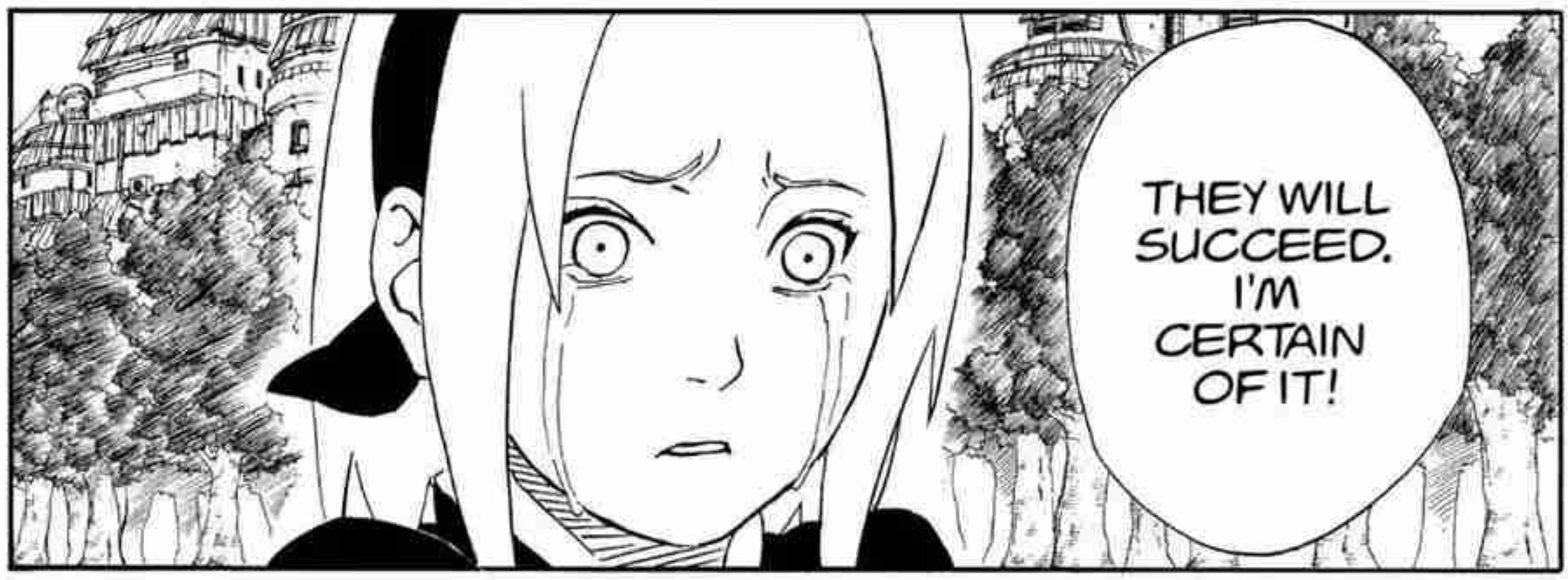
WE'VE LOST SOME TIME... WE'D BETTER GET CRACKING.

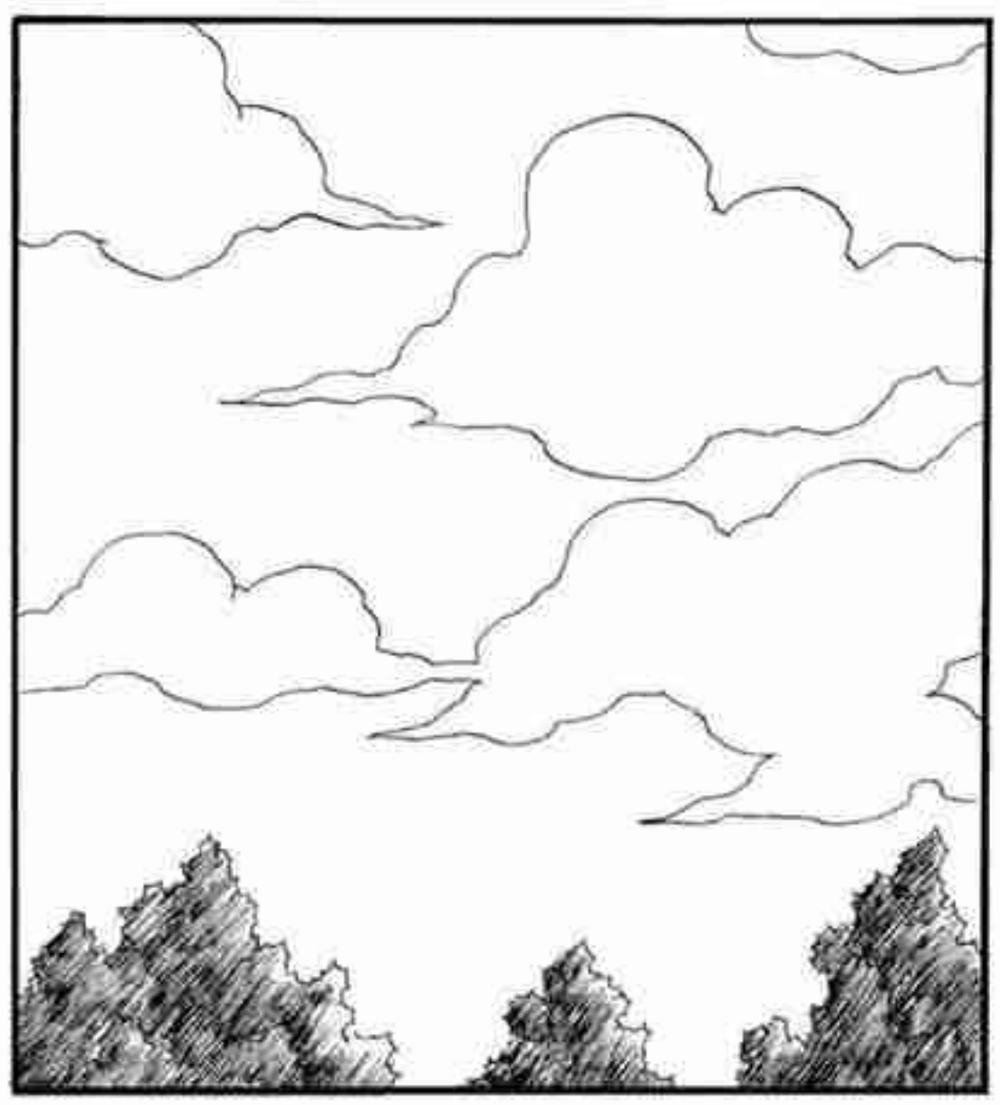
...

SHFF

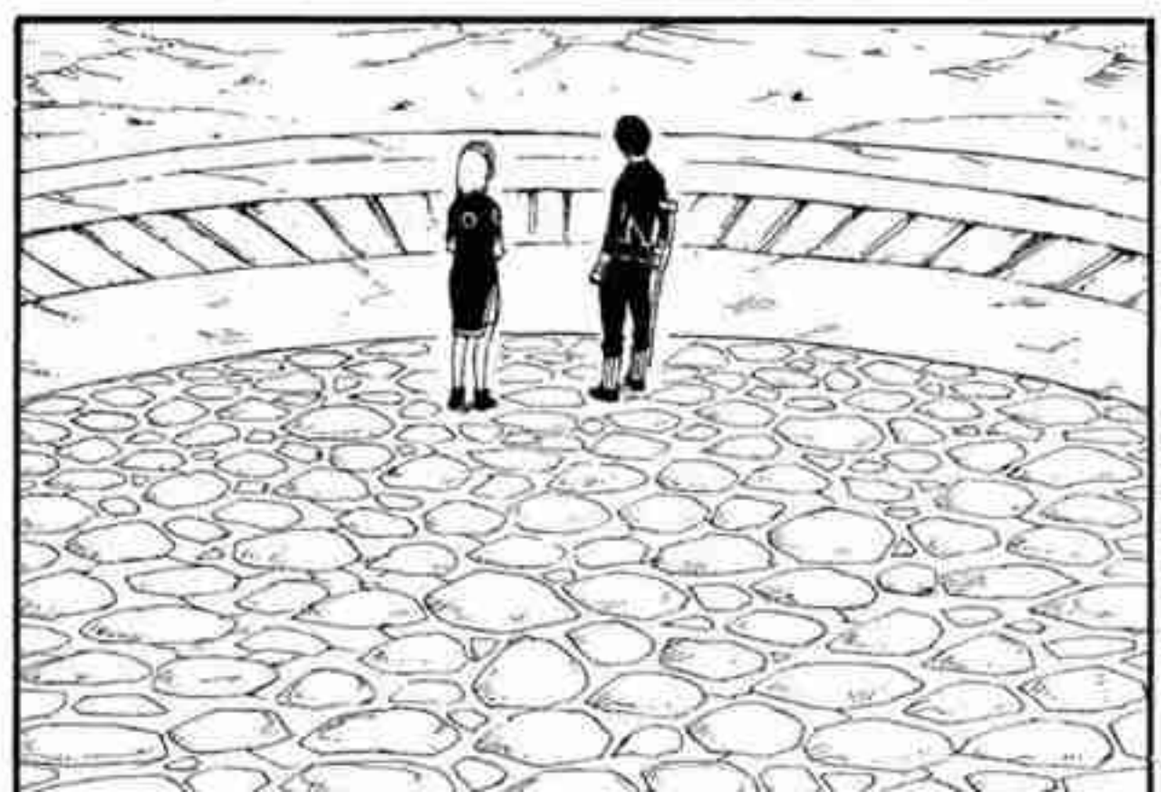
I'M SURE IT WILL ALL WORK OUT.
NARUTO PLAYED THE NICE GUY AND PROMISED ...

...

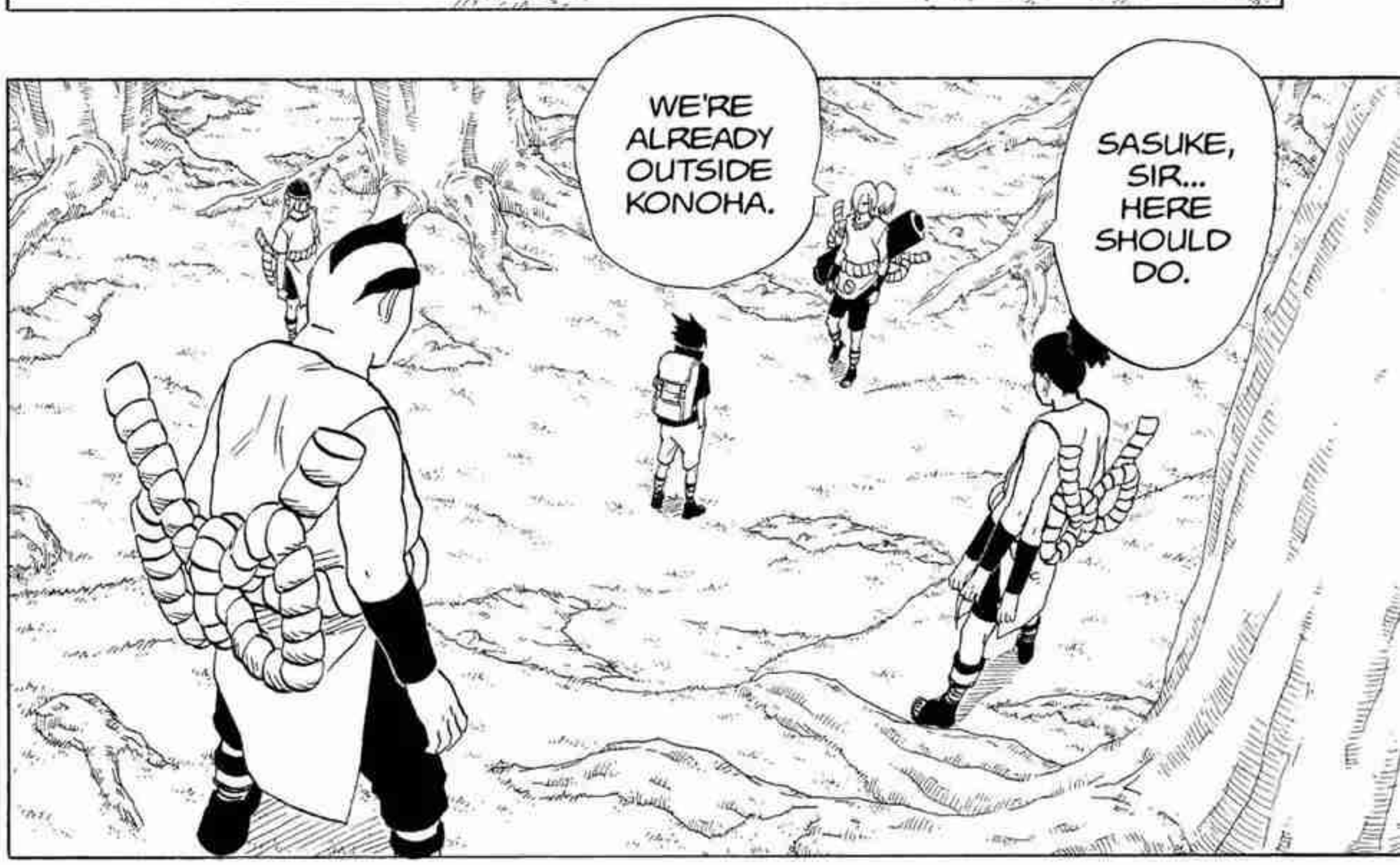

THEY WILL SUCCEED. I'M CERTAIN OF IT!



HEH



SHFF


WE'RE ALREADY OUTSIDE KONOHA.
SASUKE, SIR... HERE SHOULD DO.

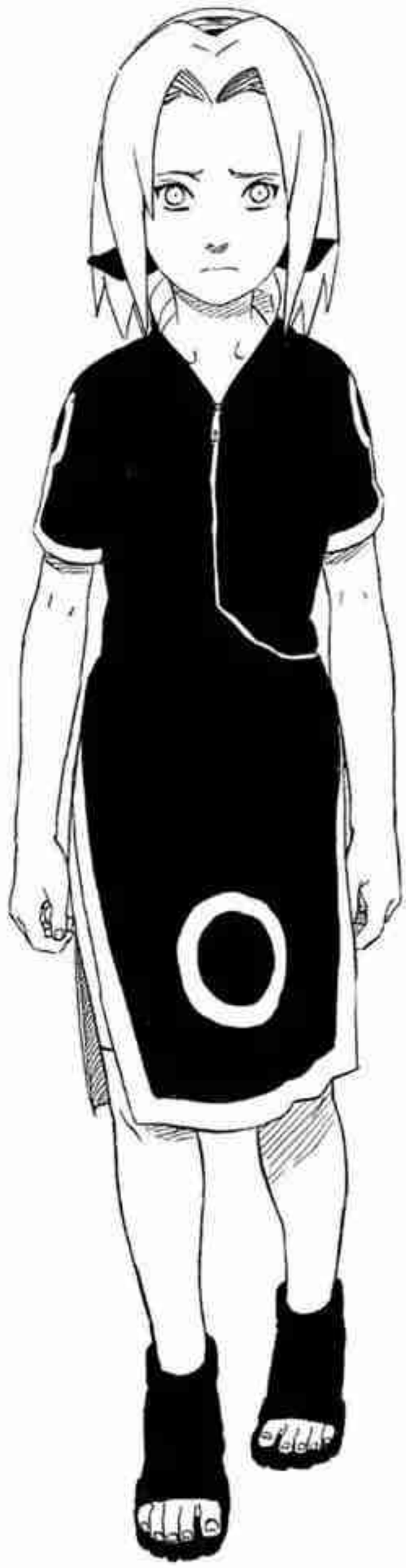
AND I'M ASKING YOU WHAT IT IS.

IT'S JUST THAT LORD OROCHIMARU GAVE US A TASK...
SOME-THING... CRITICAL.

DO? FOR WHAT?

YOU MUST DIE...

JUST THIS ONCE.



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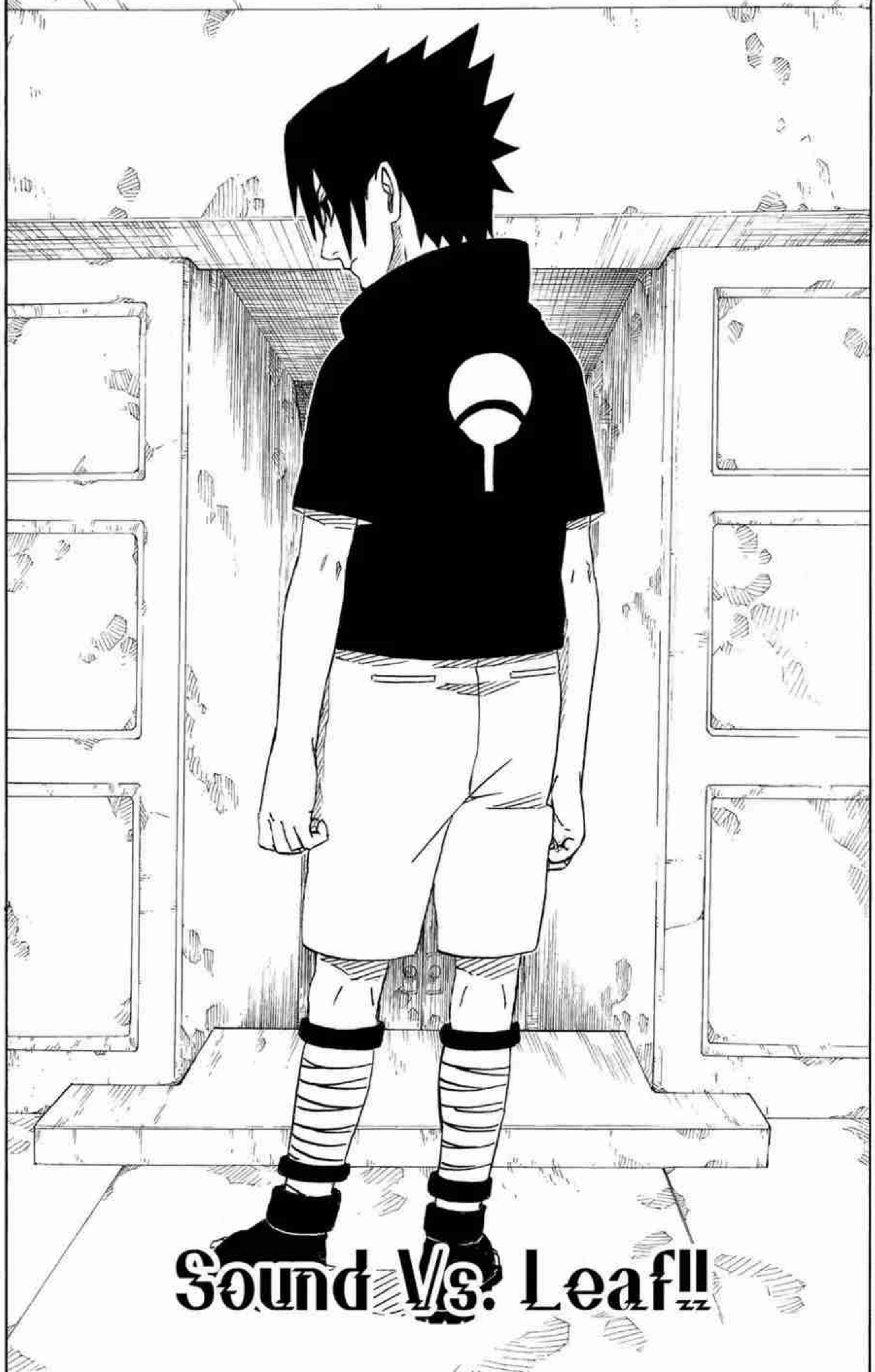
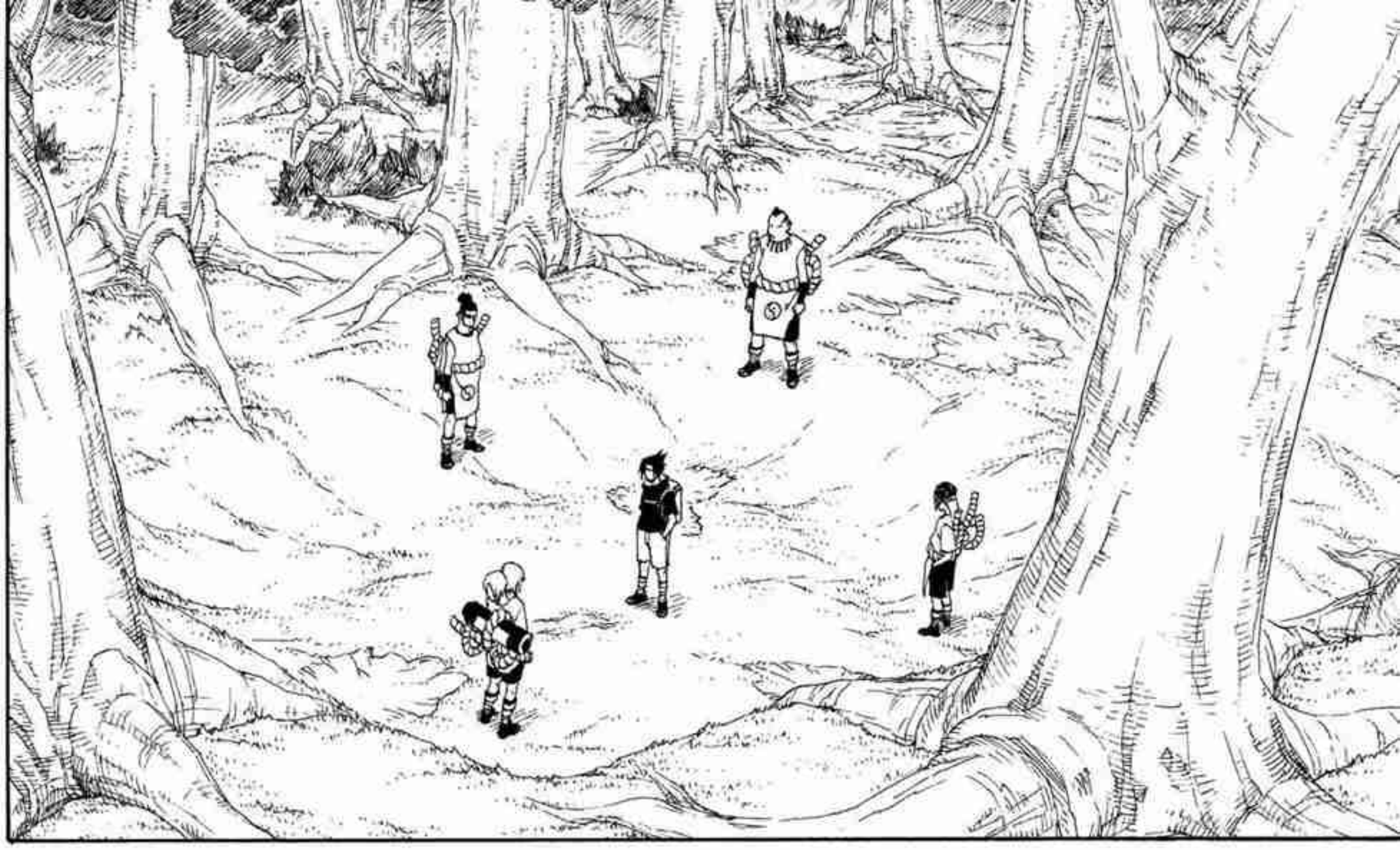


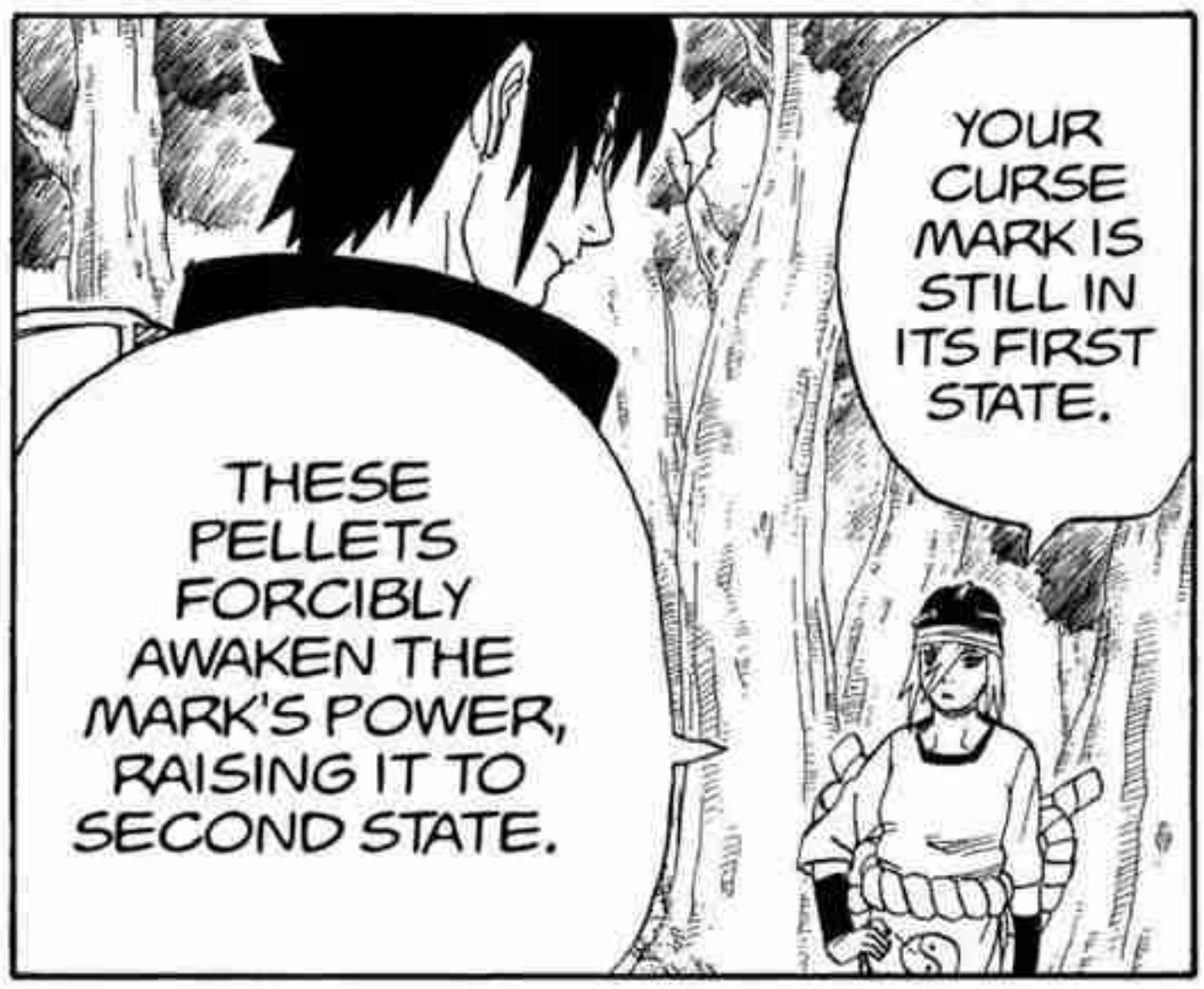


...
SHFF SHFF

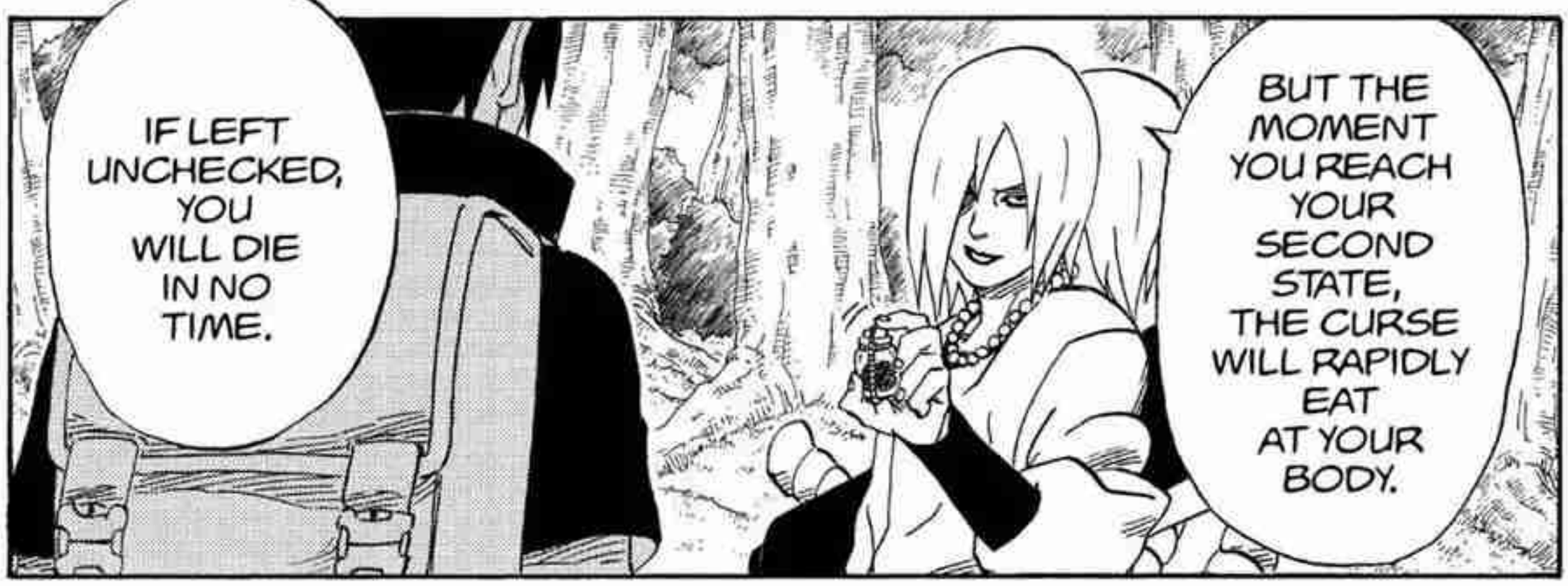
I MUST DIE... ONCE?
...!

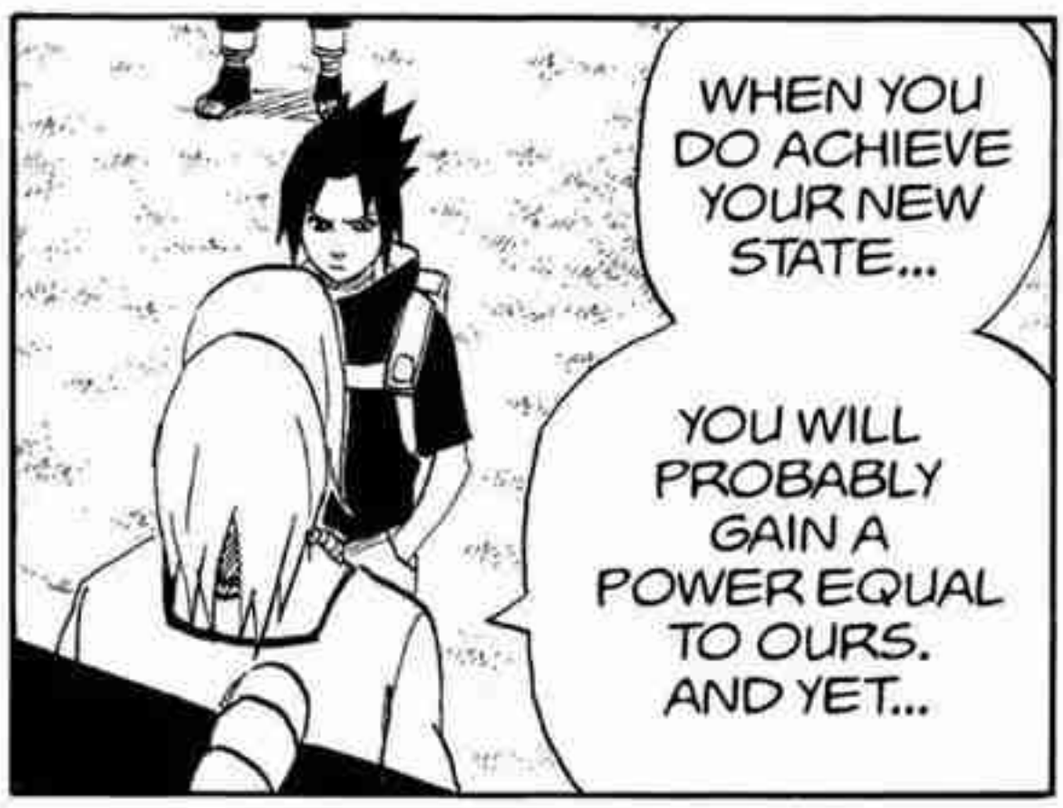
SST
YOU NEED TO SWALLOW ONE.
SEI-SHINGAN PELLETS.

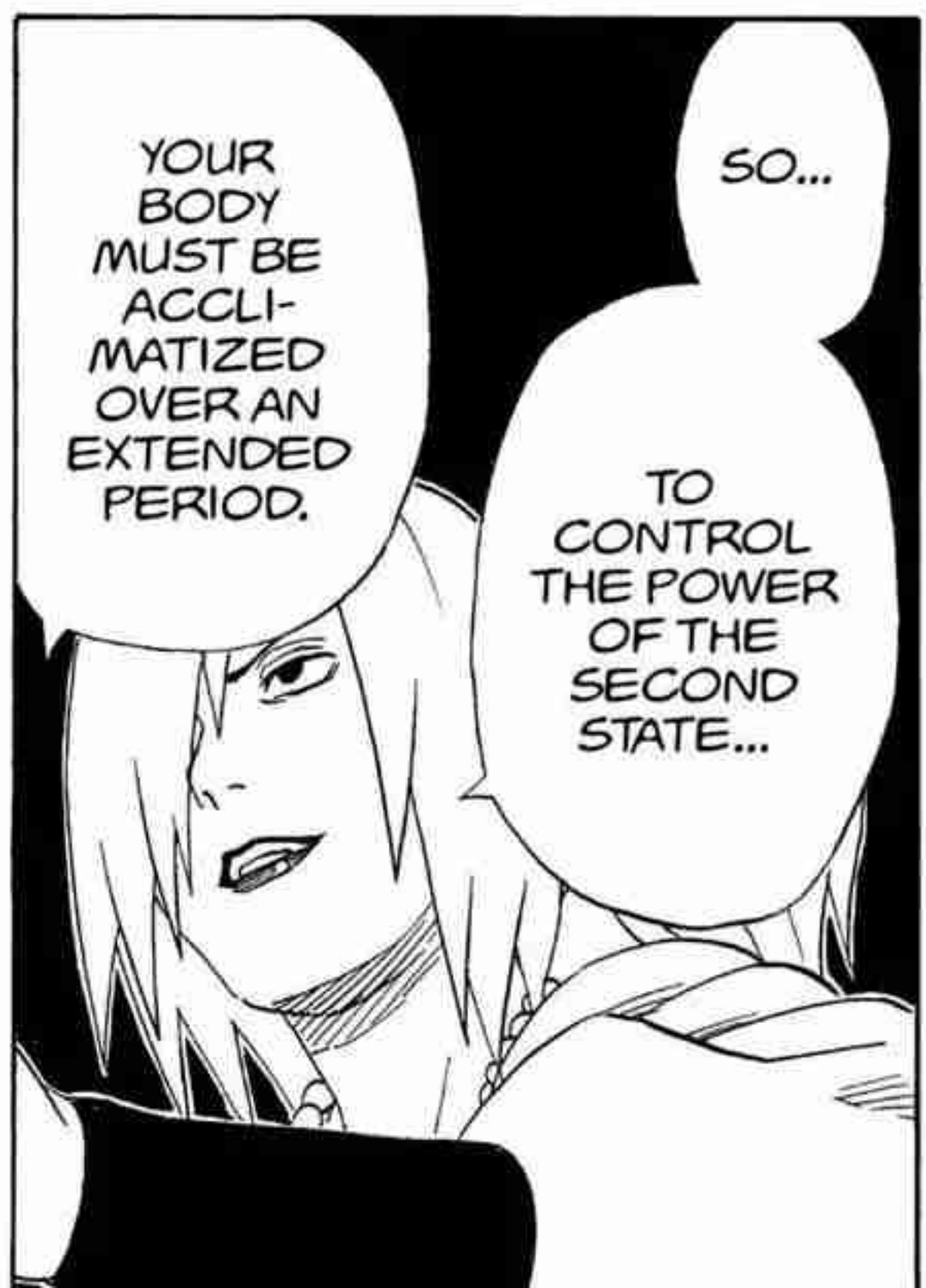
!


YOUR CURSE MARK IS STILL IN ITS FIRST STATE.
THESE PELLETS FORCIBLY AWAKEN THE MARK'S POWER, RAISING IT TO SECOND STATE.

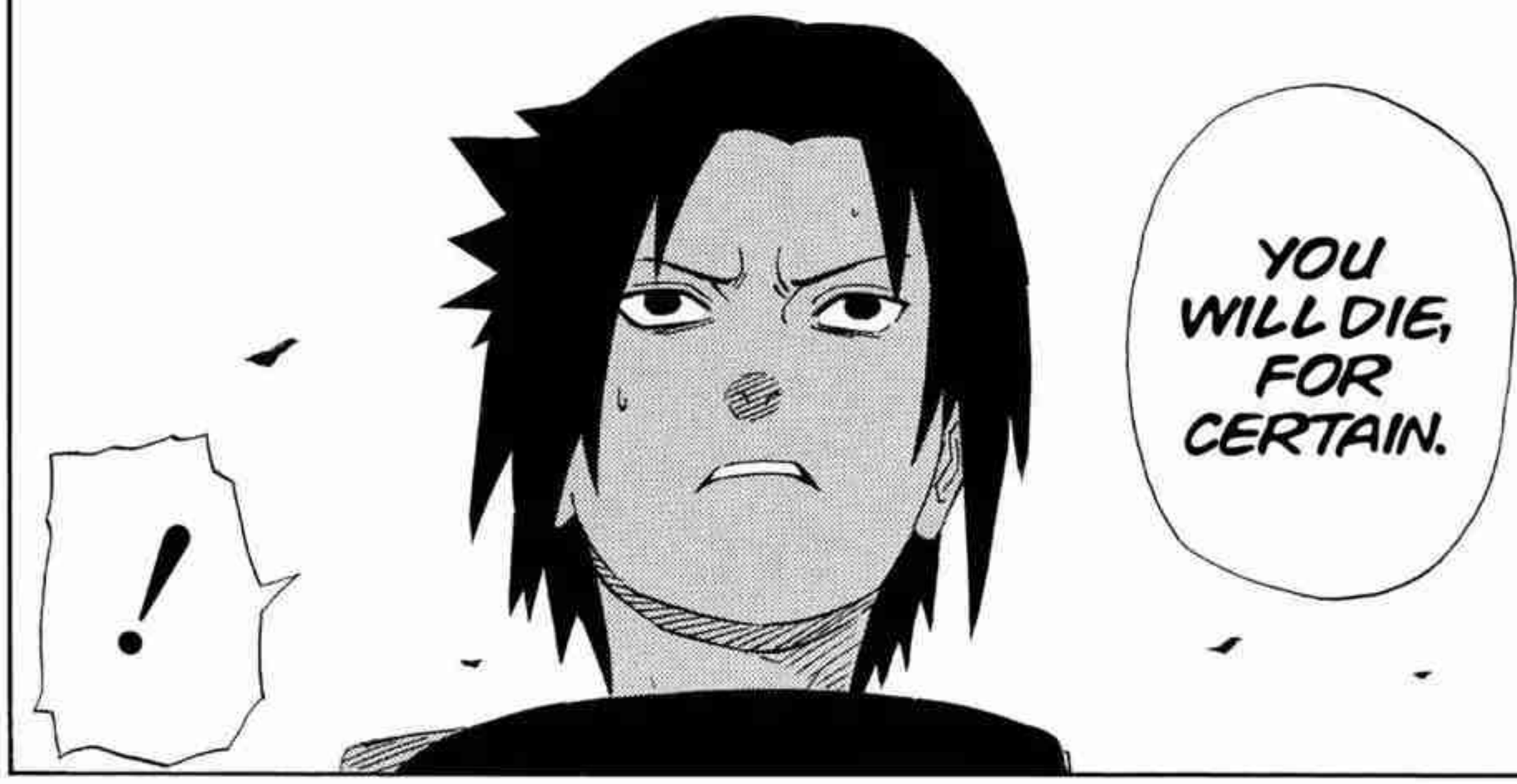
WHAT IS THAT?
SEI-SHINGAN ...


IF LEFT UNCHECKED, YOU WILL DIE IN NO TIME.
BUT THE MOMENT YOU REACH YOUR SECOND STATE, THE CURSE WILL RAPIDLY EAT AT YOUR BODY.


WHEN YOU DO ACHIEVE YOUR NEW STATE...
YOU WILL PROBABLY GAIN A POWER EQUAL TO OURS. AND YET...


YOUR BODY MUST BE ACCLI-MATIZED OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD.
SO...
TO CONTROL THE POWER OF THE SECOND STATE...

WITHIN MINUTES OF YOUR AWAKEN-ING...


YOU WILL DIE, FOR CERTAIN.
!

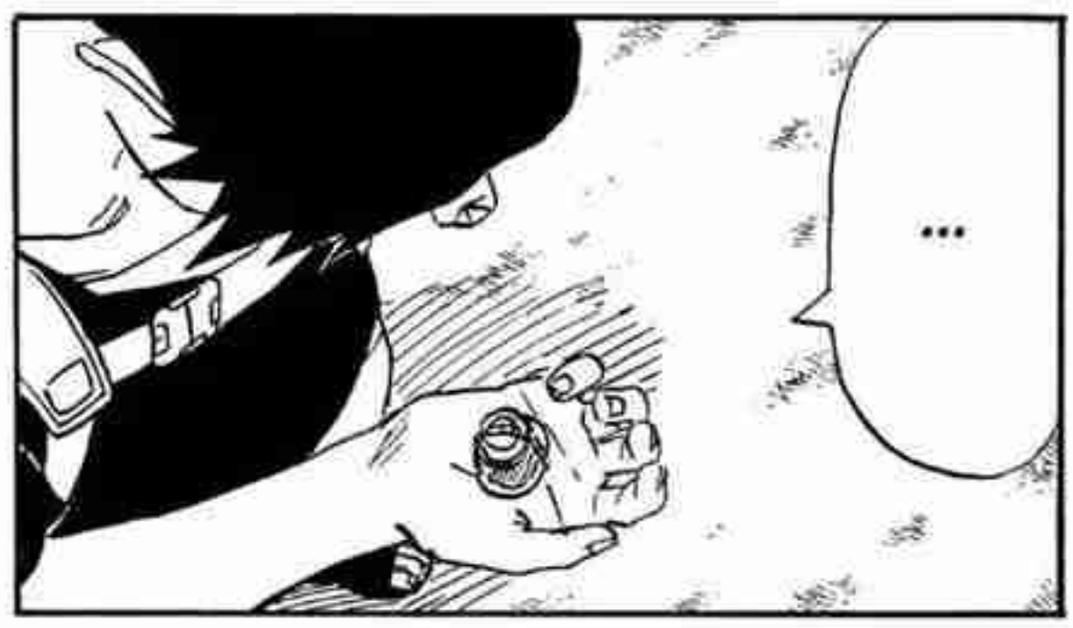
YOU NEED NOT WORRY...
WE'RE HERE AT YOUR SERVICE.
SHIFF

...
OKAY, SO ONCE I'M DEAD, WHAT NEXT?

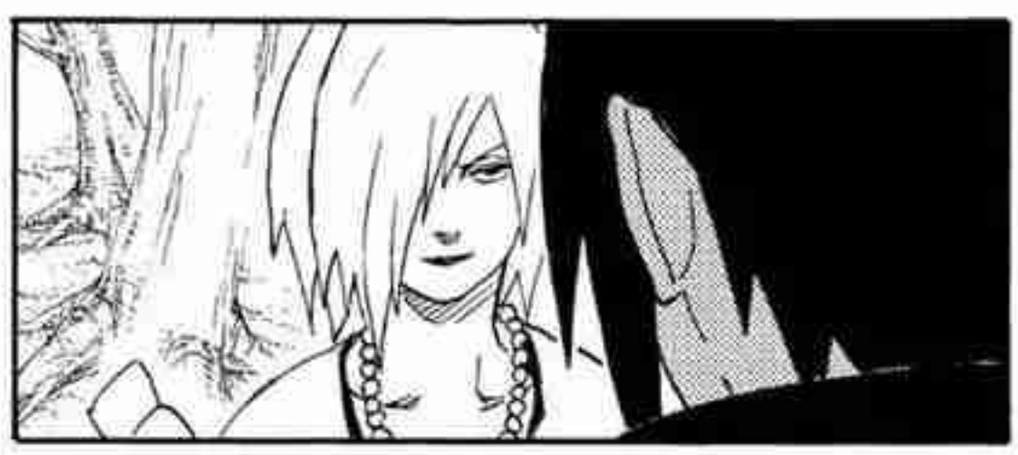
?!

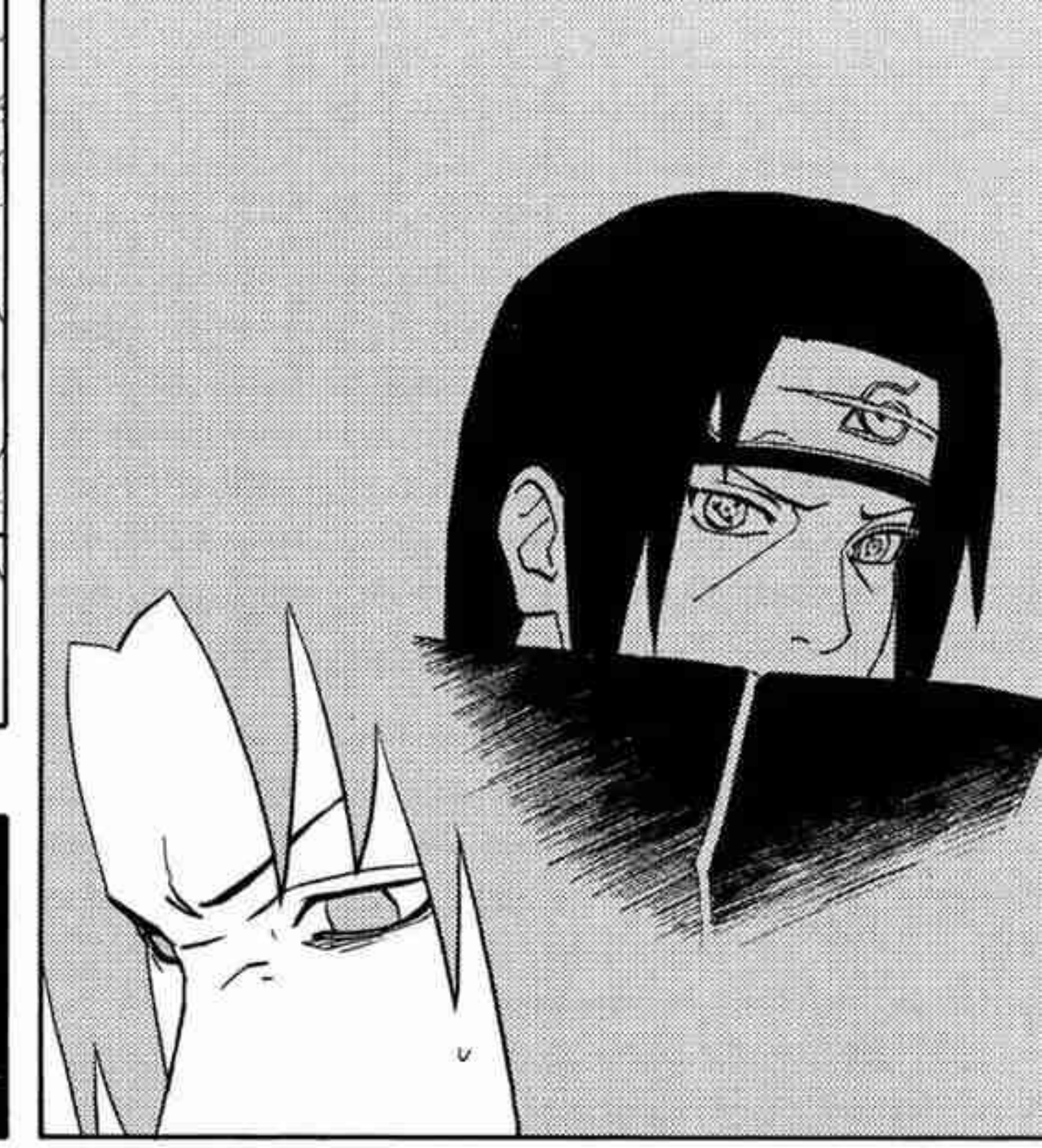
RATHER THAN DIE, YOU WILL LAPSE INTO A SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

USING BARRIER NINJUTSU, WE CAN REIN IN THE SIDE EFFECTS...



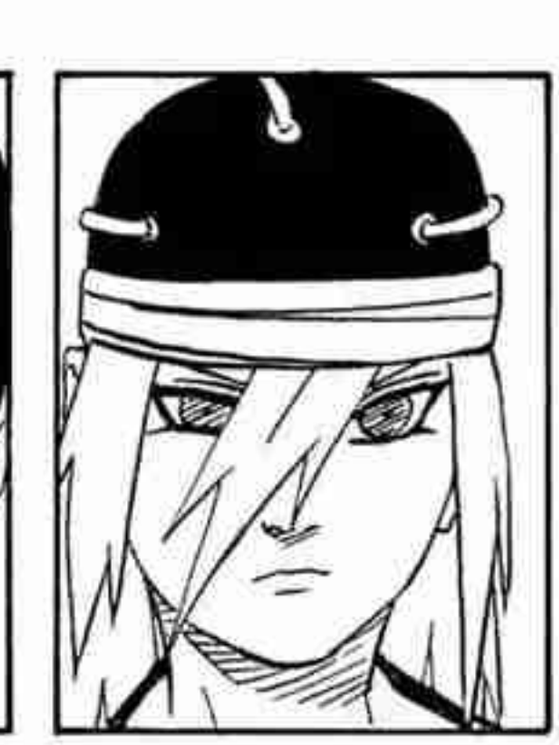
ALL RIGHT ...
...

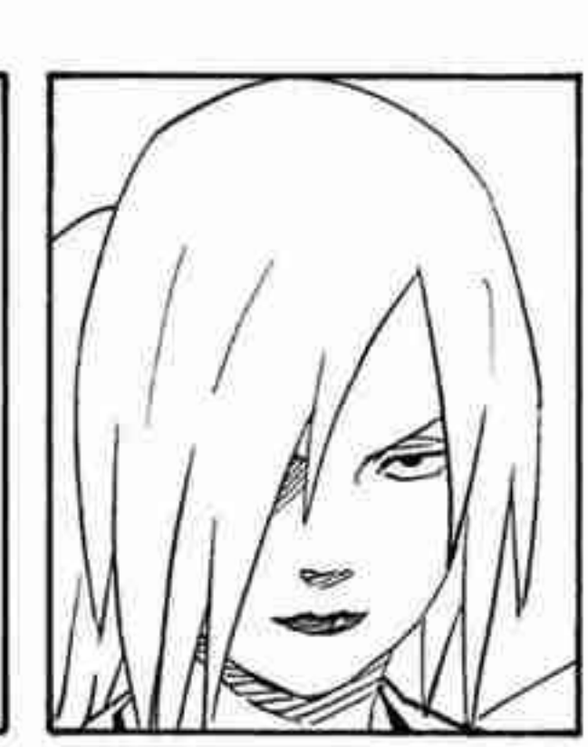




GULP

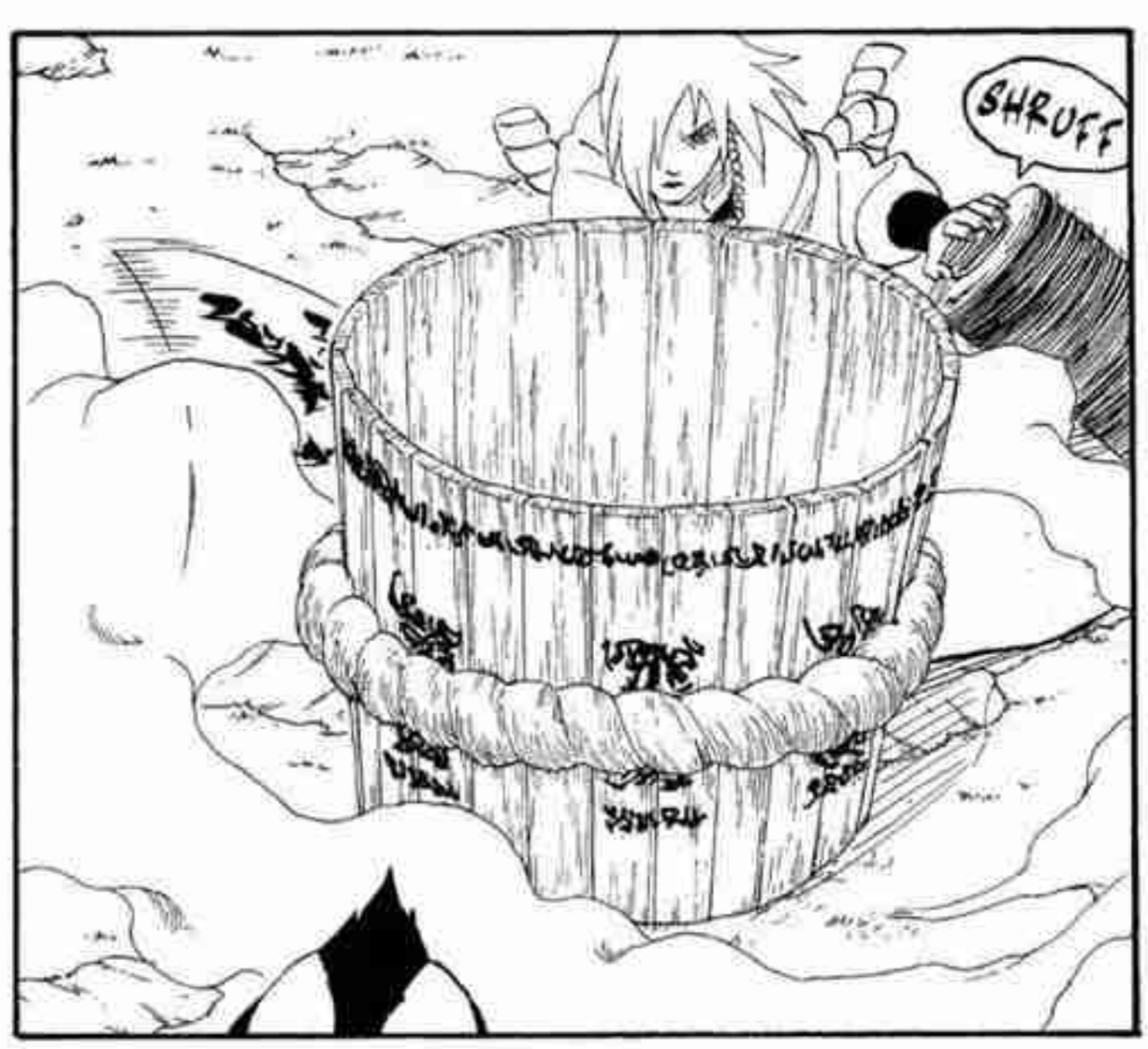
PUP





READ THIS WAY
URRG...
FUMP
PUM
HEY GUYS, NO DALLYING. OUR SASUKE MIGHT JUST DROP DEAD.

BWOOF
GAK
URK...
TUNK


SHRUFF

ON
NG

TAKE POSITION!
FSSH

TUG
WSST

SKRT

NOW!!

FWOOOO

WSSH

SWSH

FSSH

FSSH

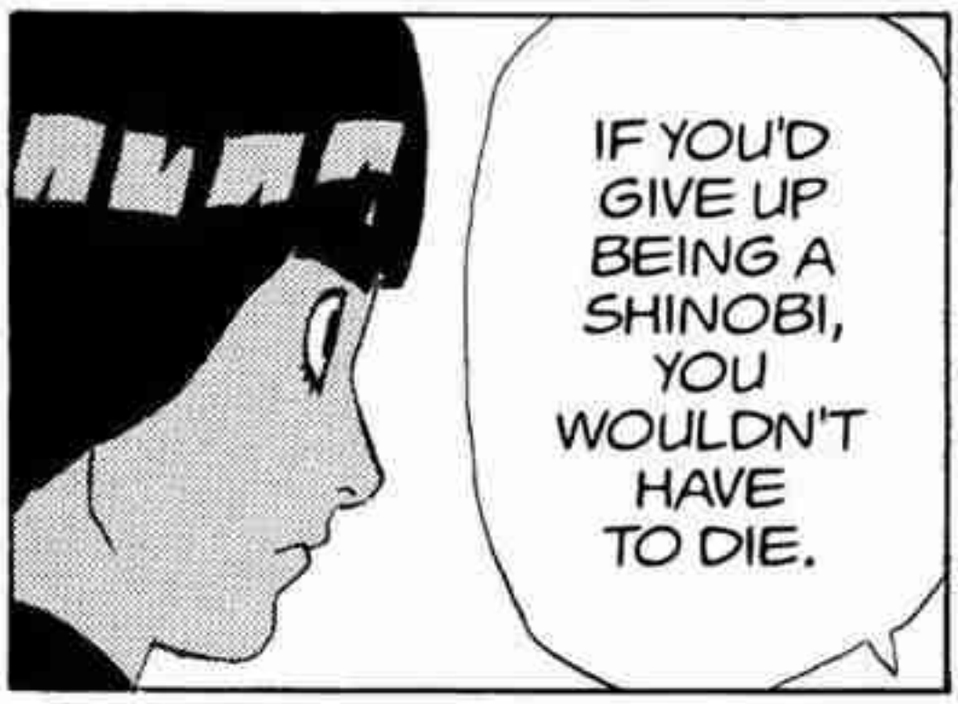
SHIKOKU MUJIN! FOUR BLACK MISTS FORMATION!!
FWOO

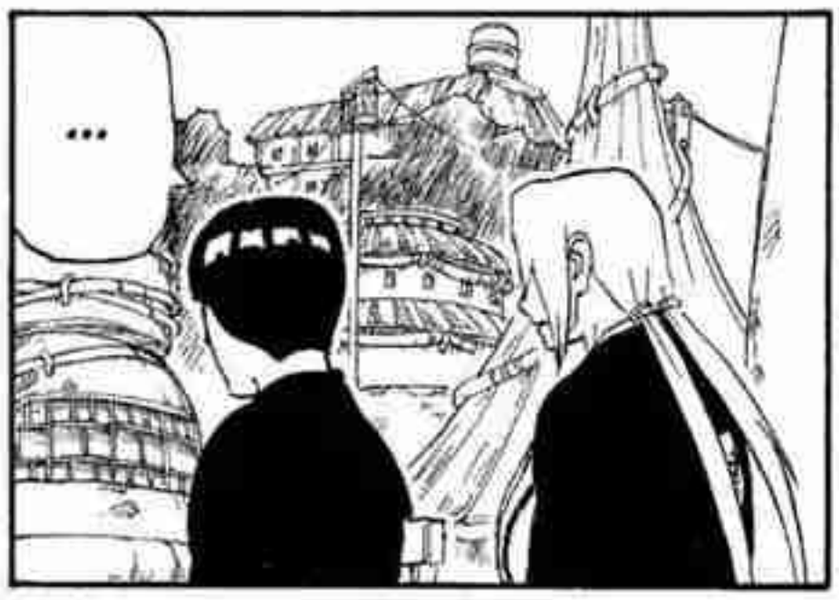
KA-KU

NGG

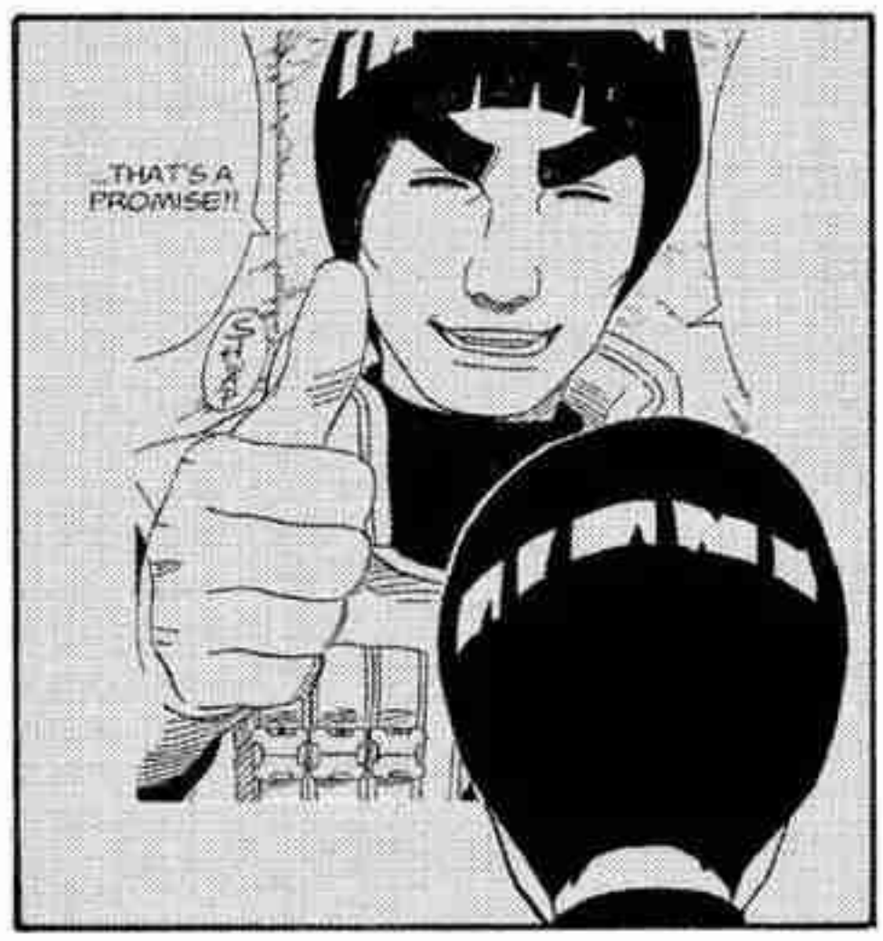
PHASE ONE IS OVER.

WELL.





THE ONLY REASON I EXIST...
...IS TO PROVE THAT EVEN I HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A SPLENDID NINJA.

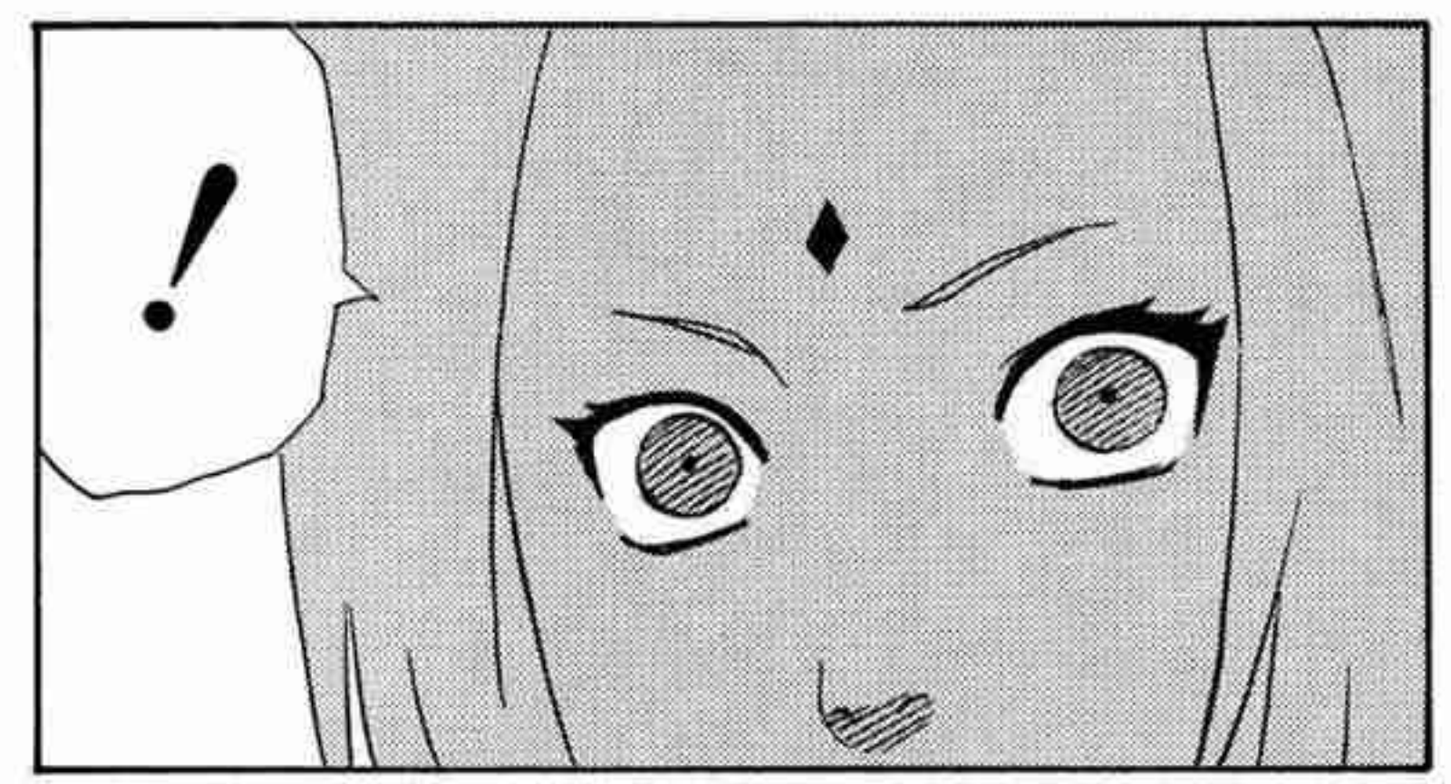

...THAT'S A PROMISE!!

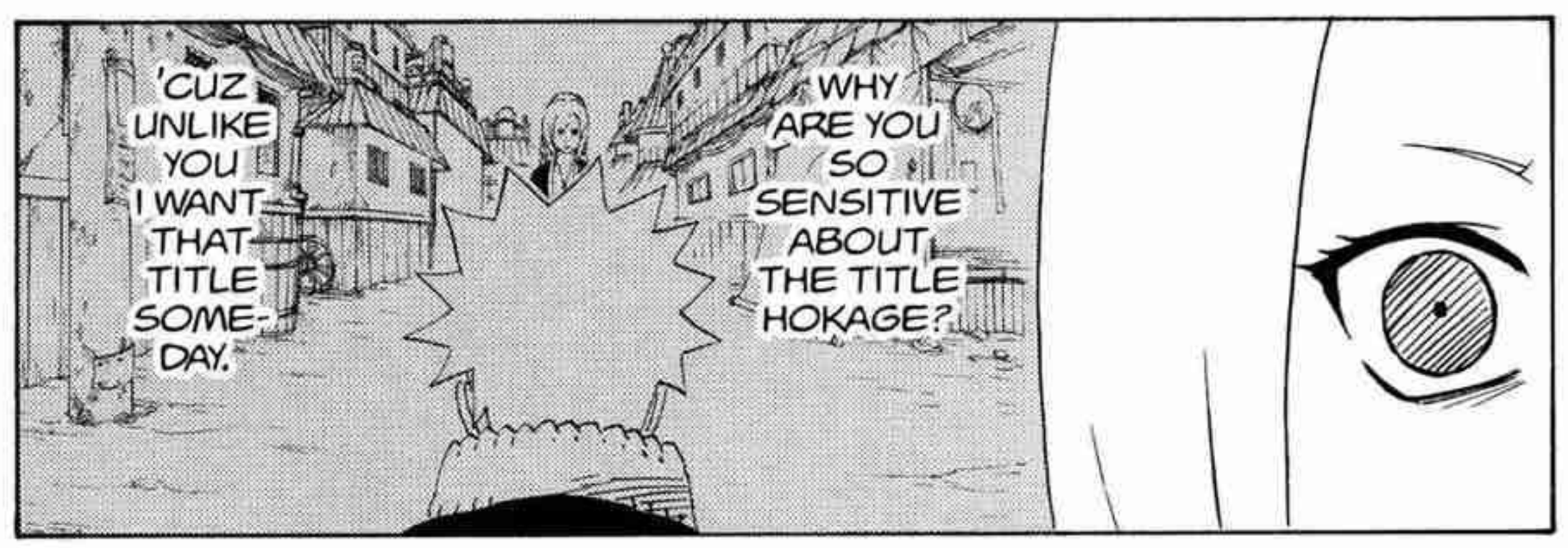
I KNOW...

EVEN IF IT IS SUCCESS-FUL...
YOU KNOW THIS IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

STILL, THAT IS MY DREAM.

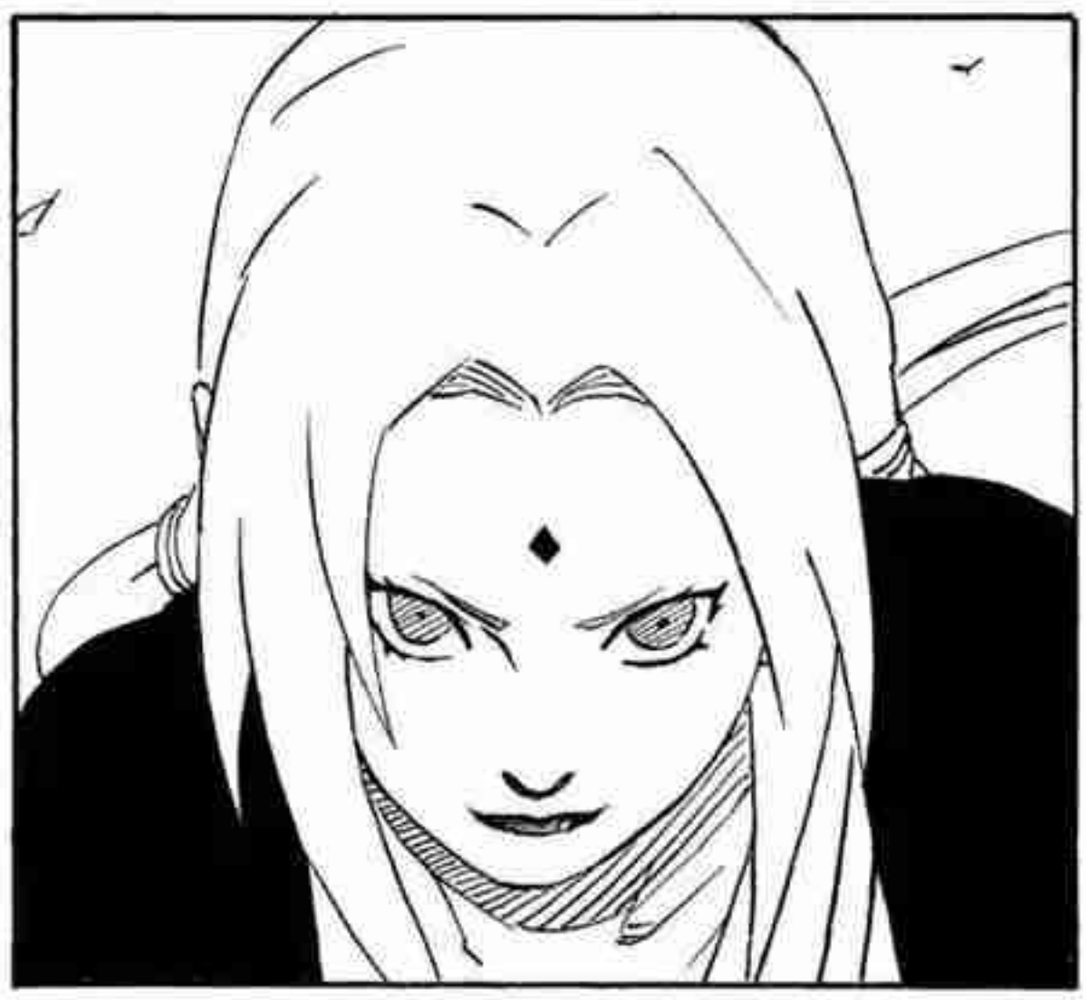
READ THIS WAY
HEH HEH HEH.


!

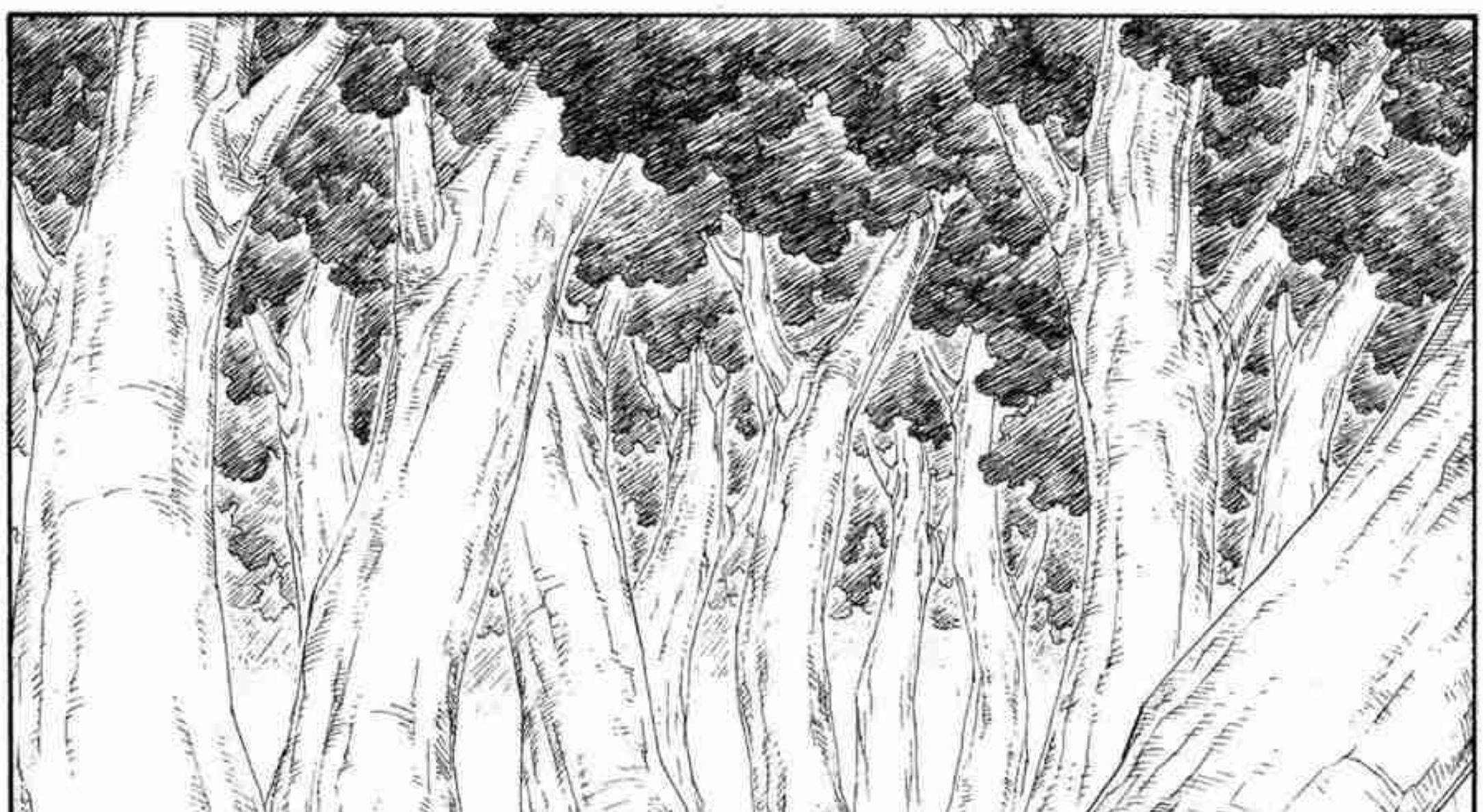

'CUZ UNLIKE YOU I WANT THAT TITLE SOME-DAY.
WHY ARE YOU SO SENSITIVE ABOUT THE TITLE HOKAGE?

...IS MY DREAM!
TO BE HOKAGE...

YOU'RE PREPARED TO FACE IT, RIGHT?!
WELL THEN. LEE! LET'S GO.
YEP!!
SHFF



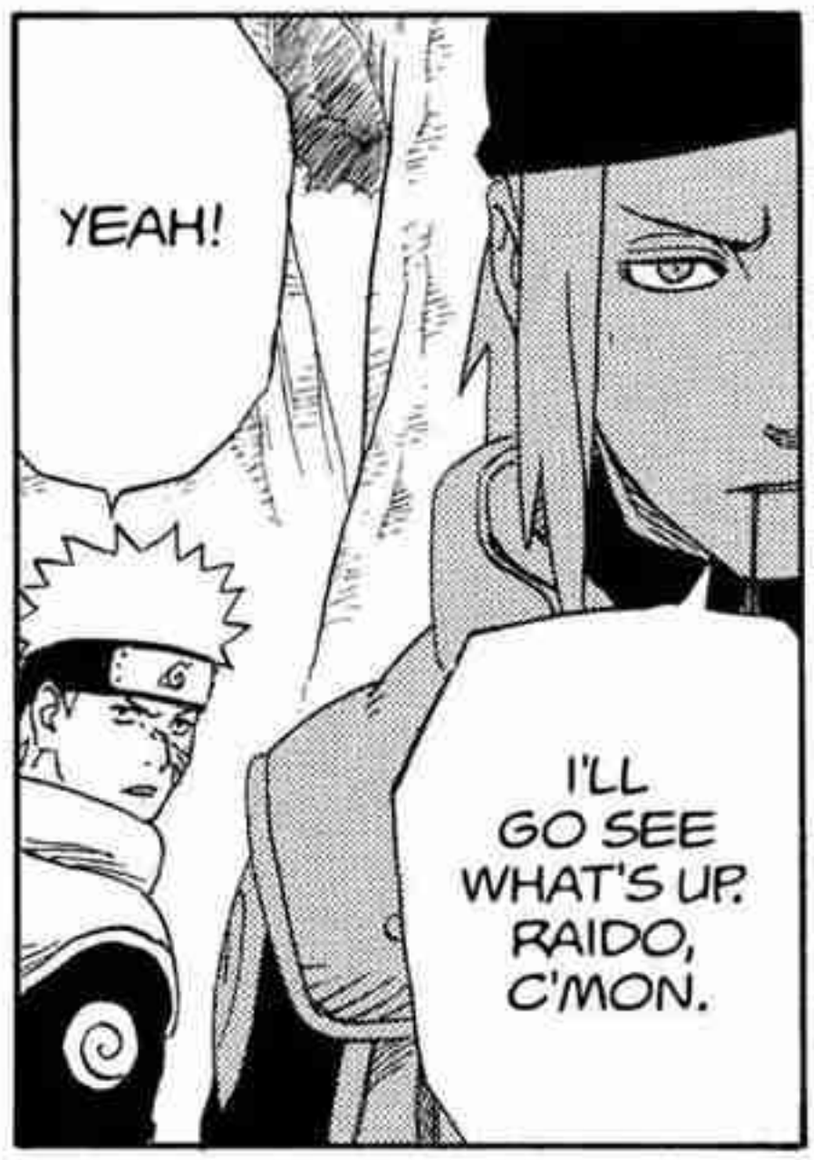
MASTER SARUTOBI... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE A REMARKABLE HOKAGE INDEED...
THIS VILLAGE IS FOSTERING SUCH PROMISING CHILDREN.



!
TWIK
HUSH!

I NEVER IMAGINED THE MISSION WOULD TAKE THIS LONG...
URRRG... SO EXHAUSTED.

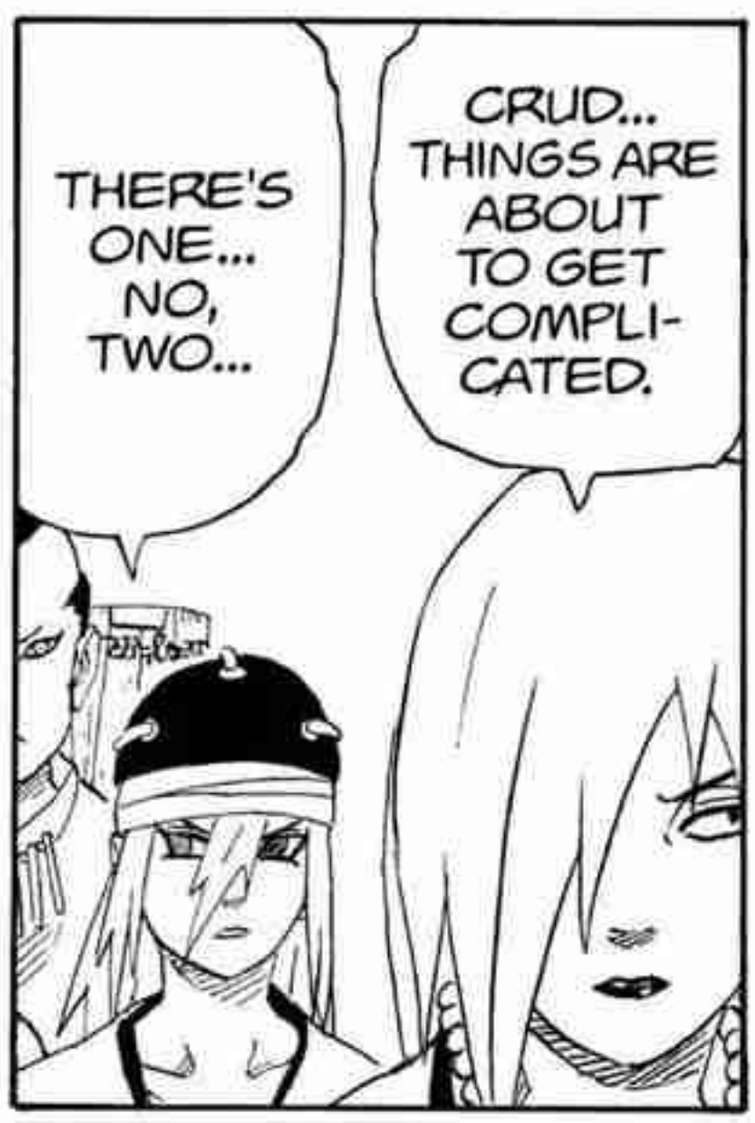
FSSH
FSSH


YEAH!
I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S UP. RAIDO, C'MON.

!
!!

SHK
SHK
SHK

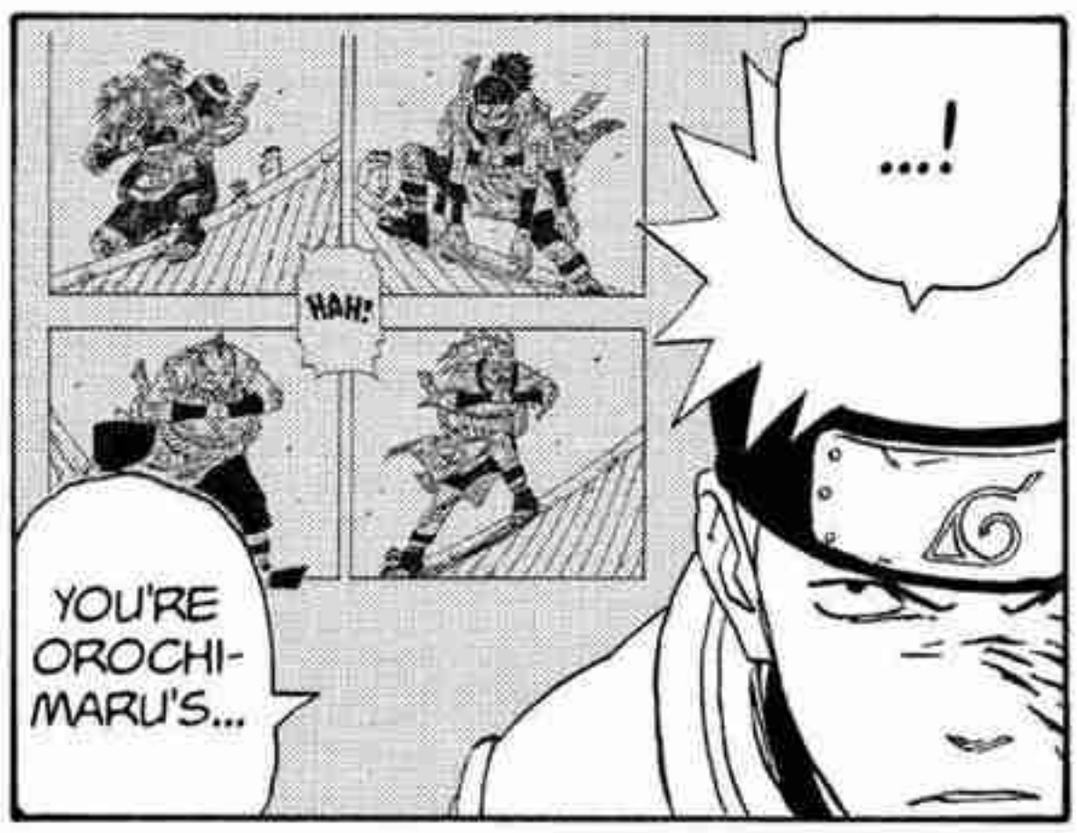
HERE THEY COME!


THERE'S ONE... NO, TWO...
CRUD... THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET COMPLI-CATED.

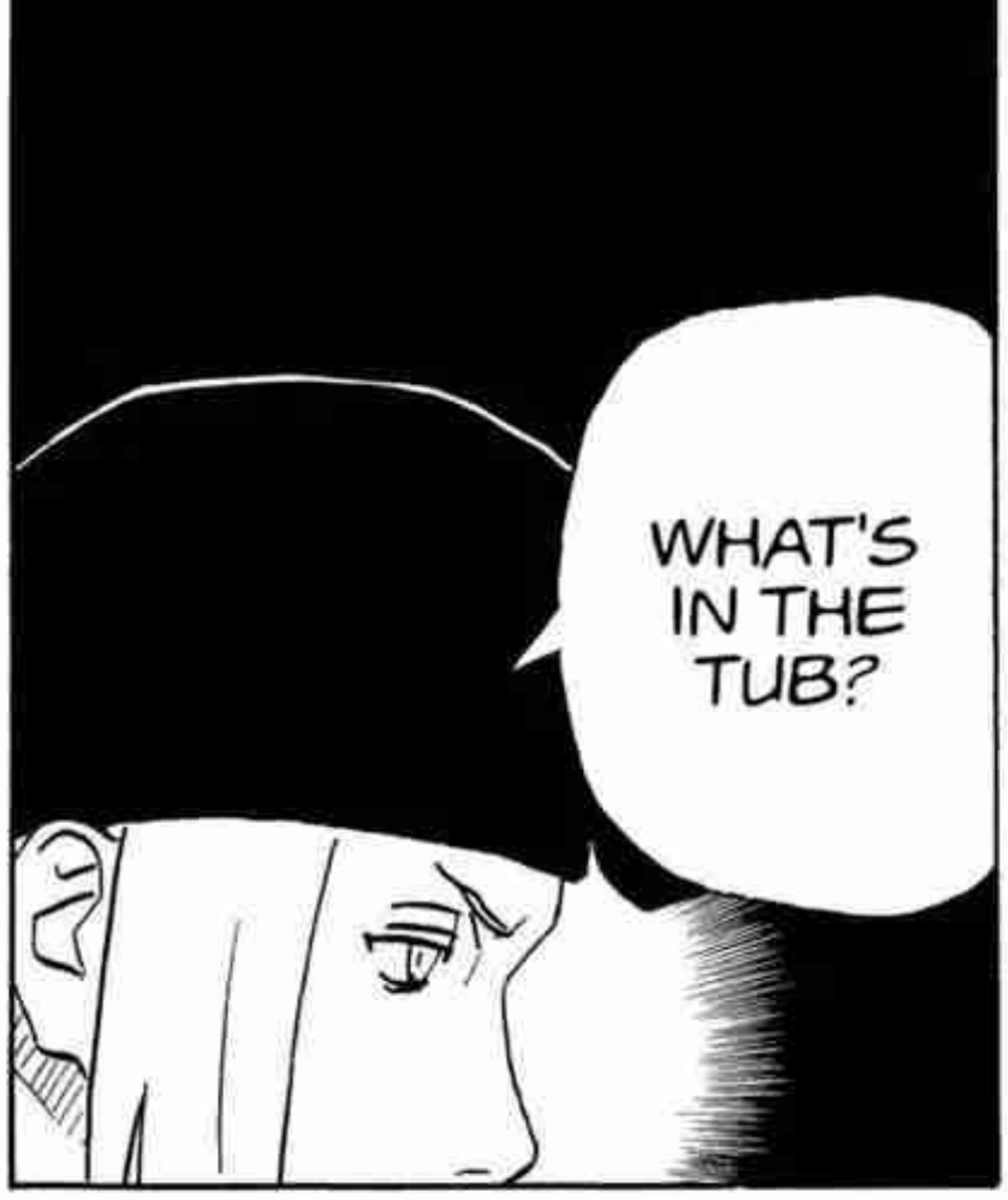
!

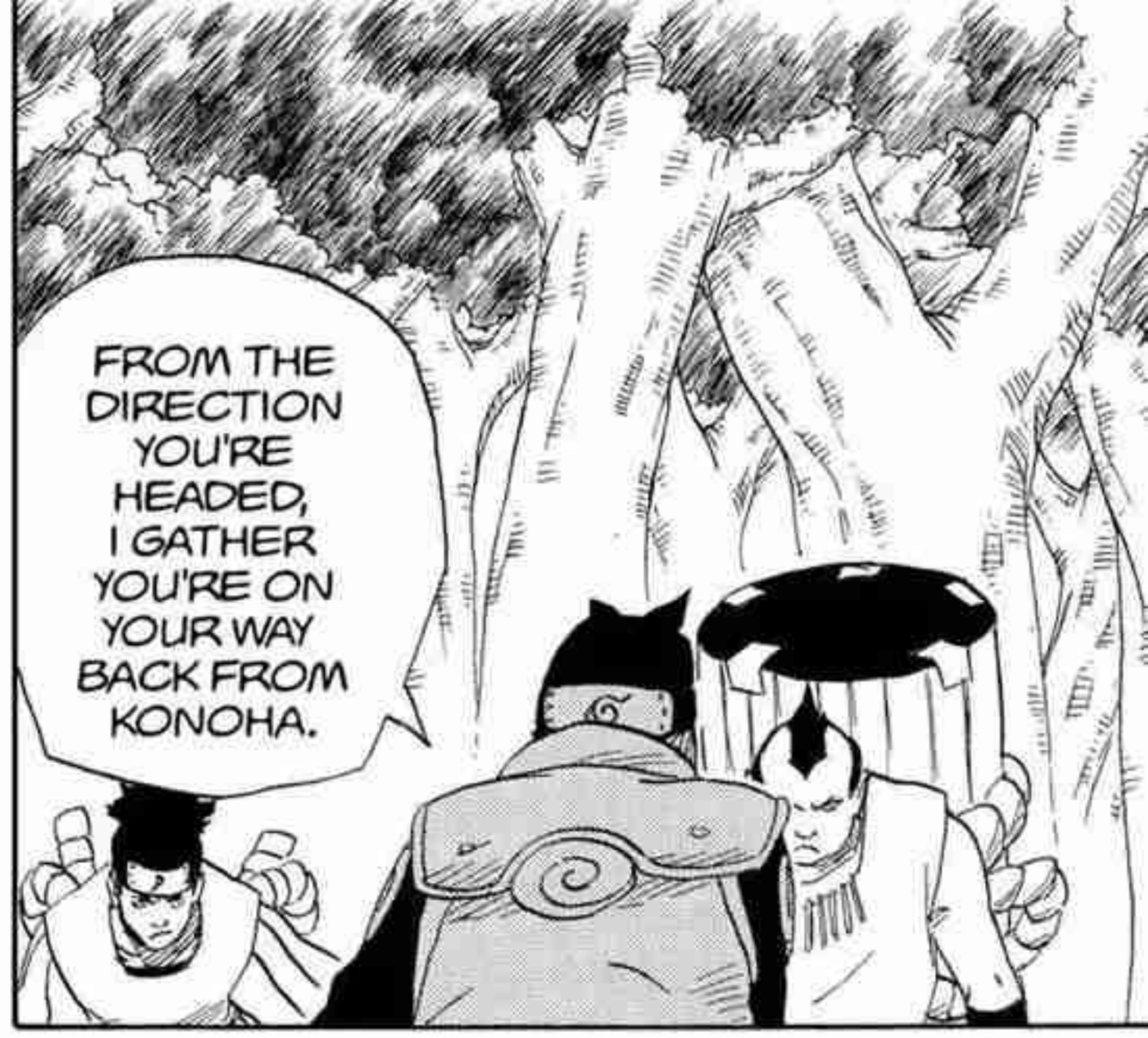
FUO
OSH

SHA
!
!

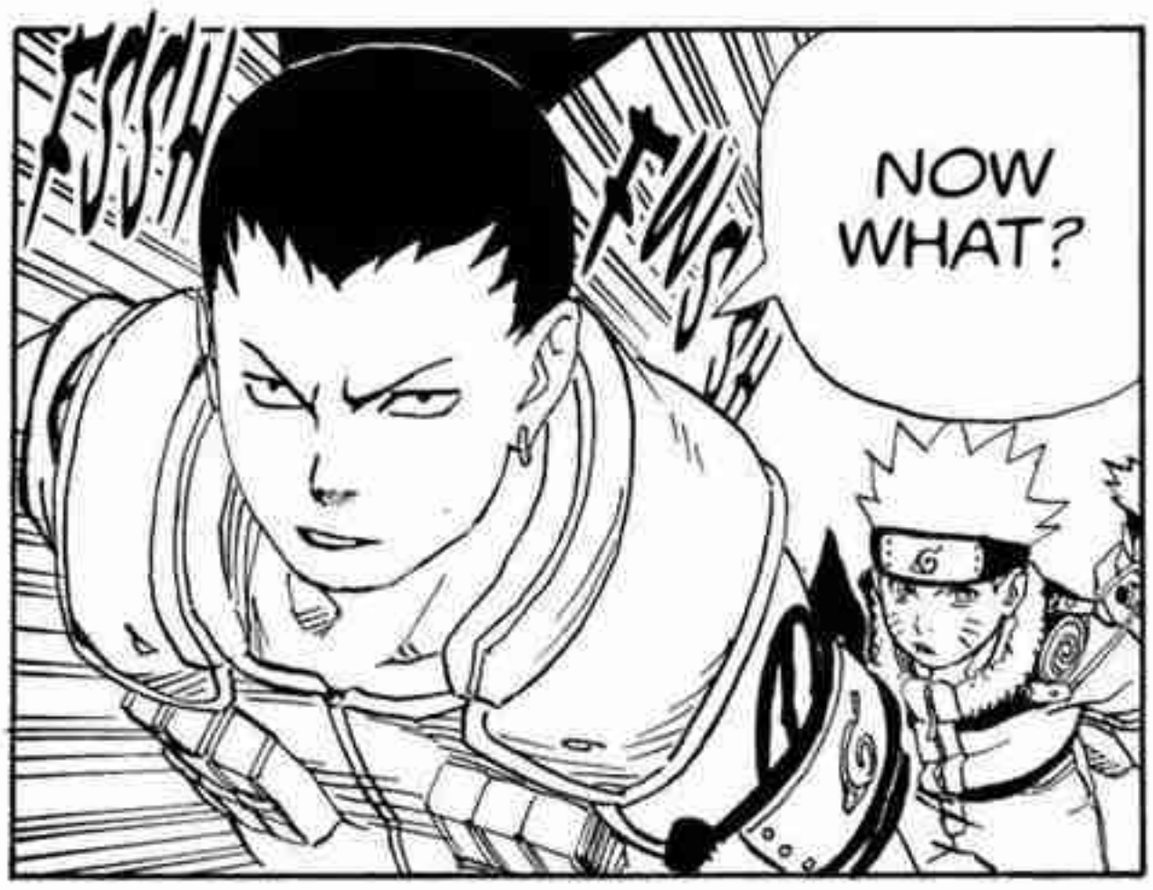

...!
HAH!
YOU'RE OROCHI-MARU'S...

SHKK


WHAT'S IN THE TUB?


FROM THE DIRECTION YOU'RE HEADED, I GATHER YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM KONOHA.

ZWUR
ZWUR
ZWUR
ZWUR


FUSSH!
FUS
NOW WHAT?

!!
SNFF SNFF
WHINE

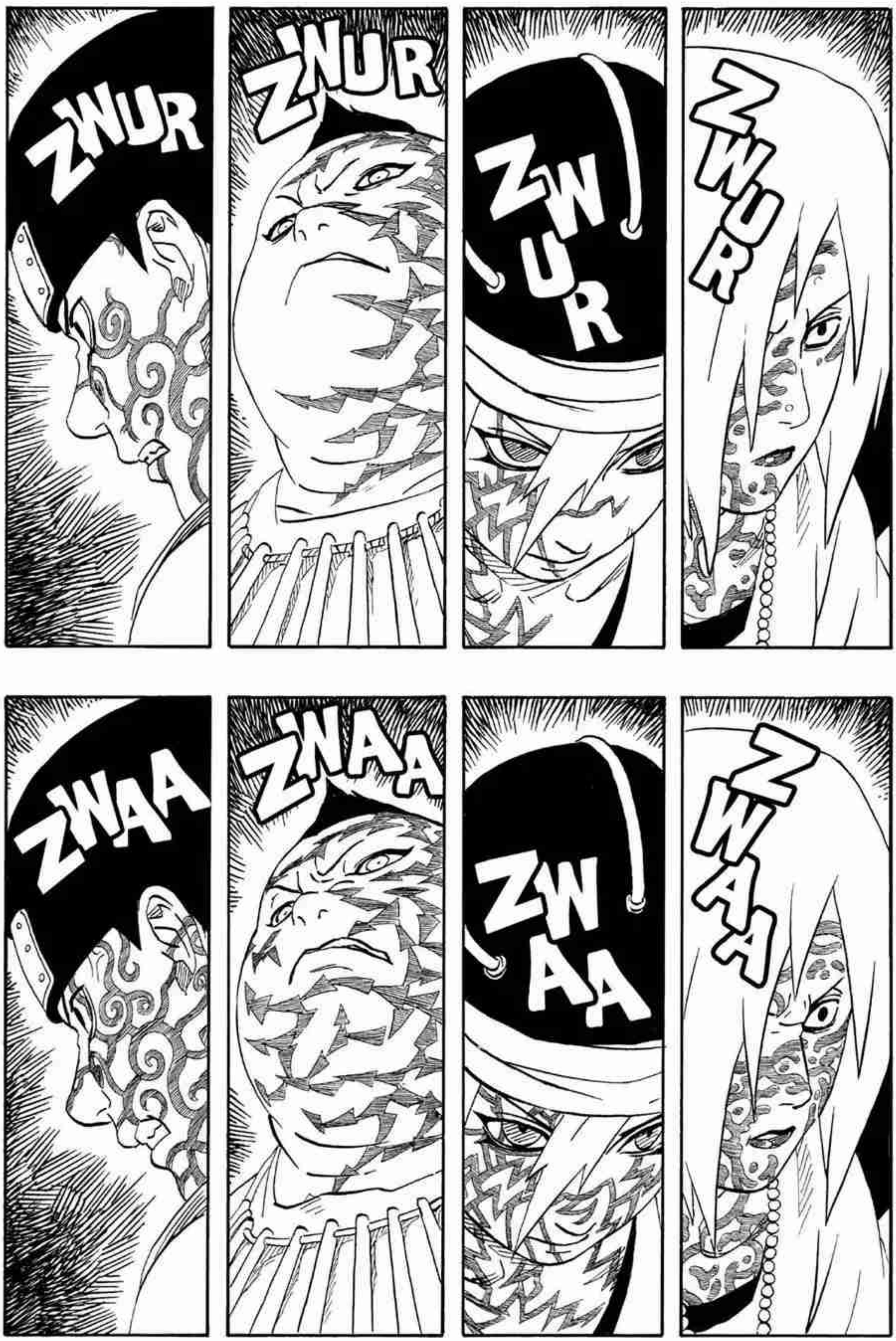
ZWUR

FIGHTING TWO JÔNIN IS A BIT ROUGH.

ZWUR

NEARBY... THE SMELL OF BLOOD...

Number 185: Pursuit...!!


ZWUR
ZNUR
ZW
UR
ZWUR
ZWAA
ZNAA
ZW
AA
ZWAA

NO POINT IN TALKING, EH? LAST TIME YOU SURPRISED ME WITH THAT ATTACK OF YOURS. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING AGAIN.

CURSE MARKS, ALL AROUND...

GWAA

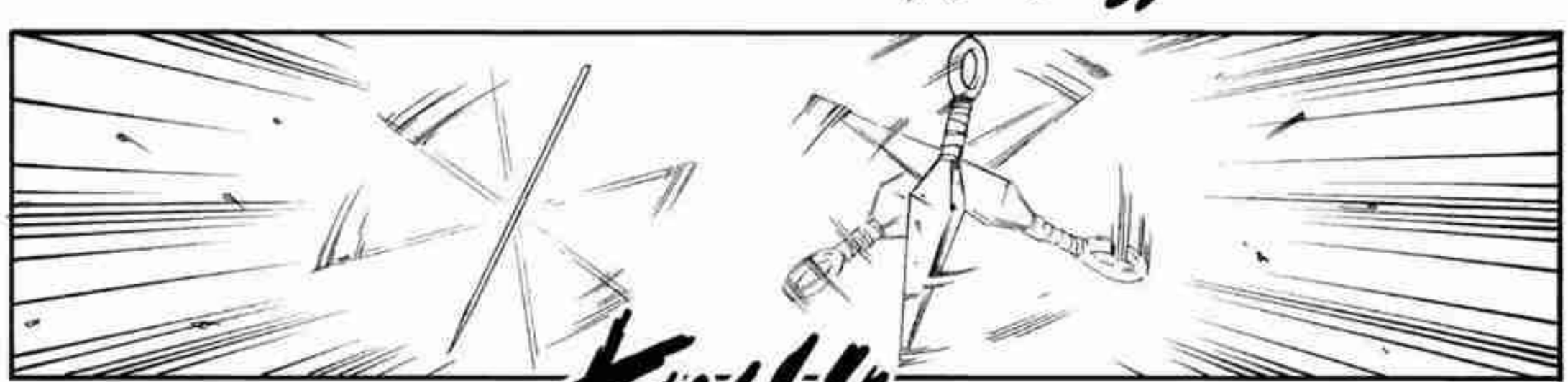
RRK
YOU'RE JUST PAWNS TO OROCHIMARU. DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE SHINOBI OF KONOHA.

SHUT UP, SCUM. YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED ON YOUR FEET.

OM
FW

PHHT

WSSSH



TWUK

SO WHAT SHALL WE DO, SHIZUNE?

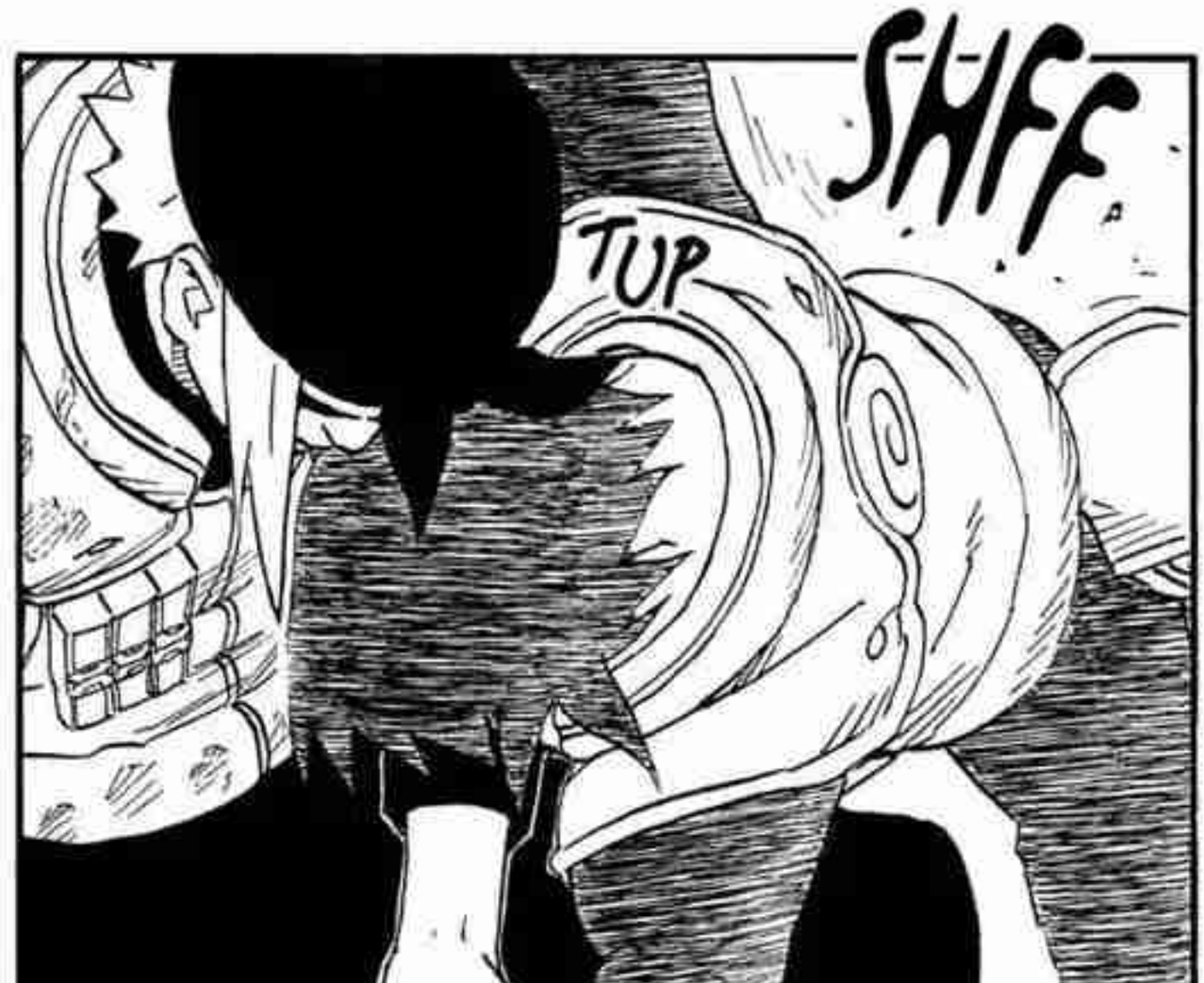
THEY'RE TAKING TOO LONG...

WHA... WHAT THE...
!!

OKAY.
WE SHOULD GO CHECK.

THIS IS BAD...

FWS

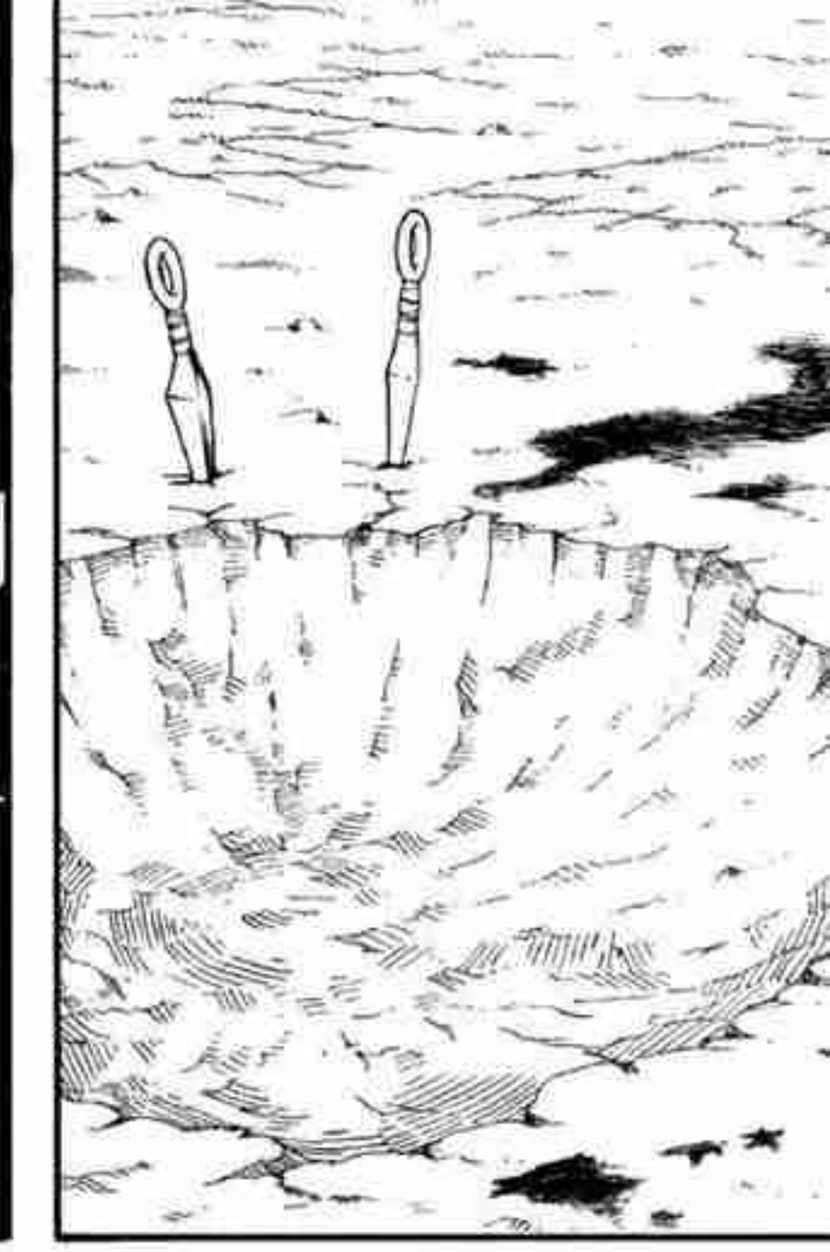

SHFF
TUP

HAH !!
FWAM

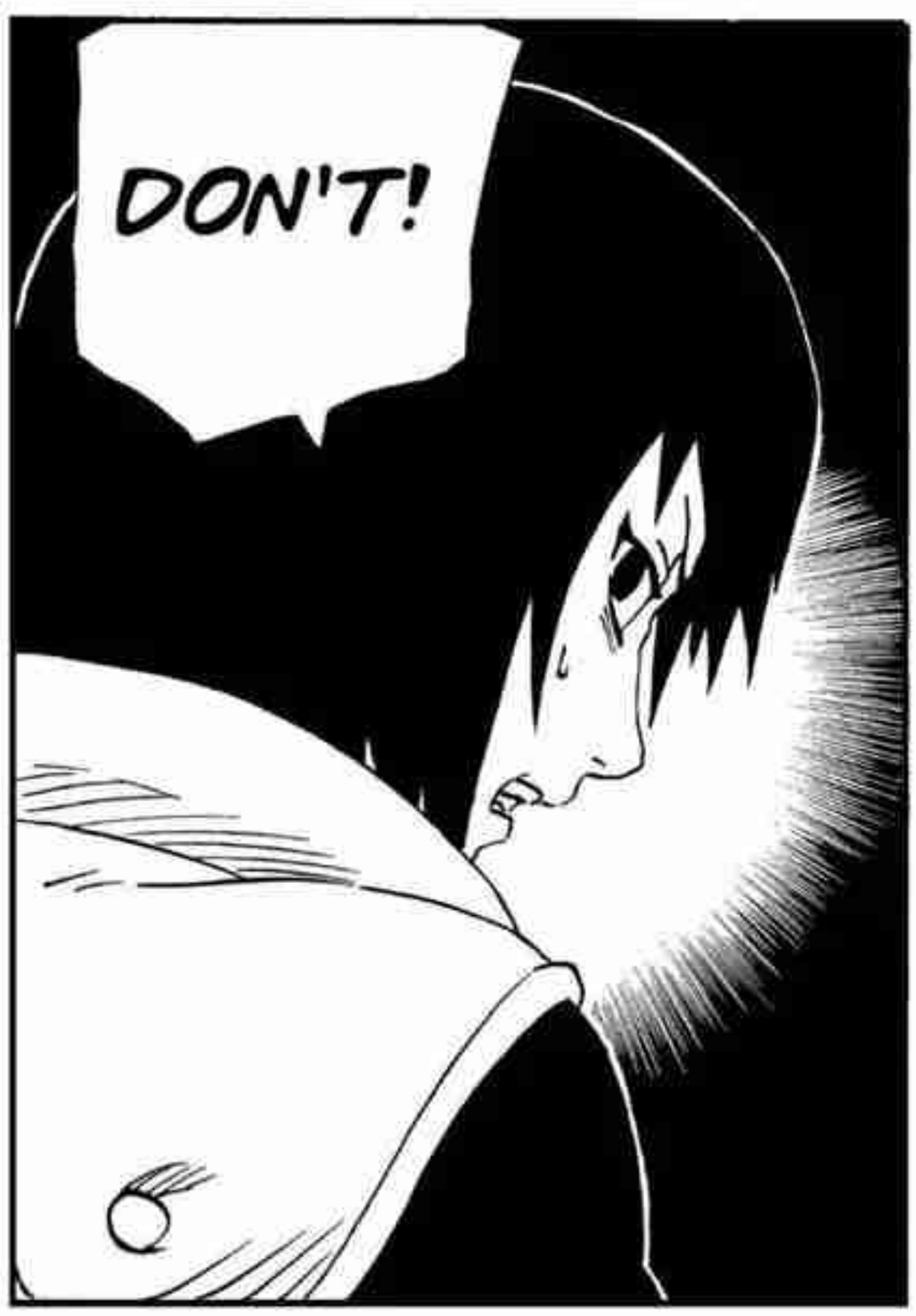
THIS...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... HOW COULD THEY LOSE?!

FWIP

PSHSHHHH



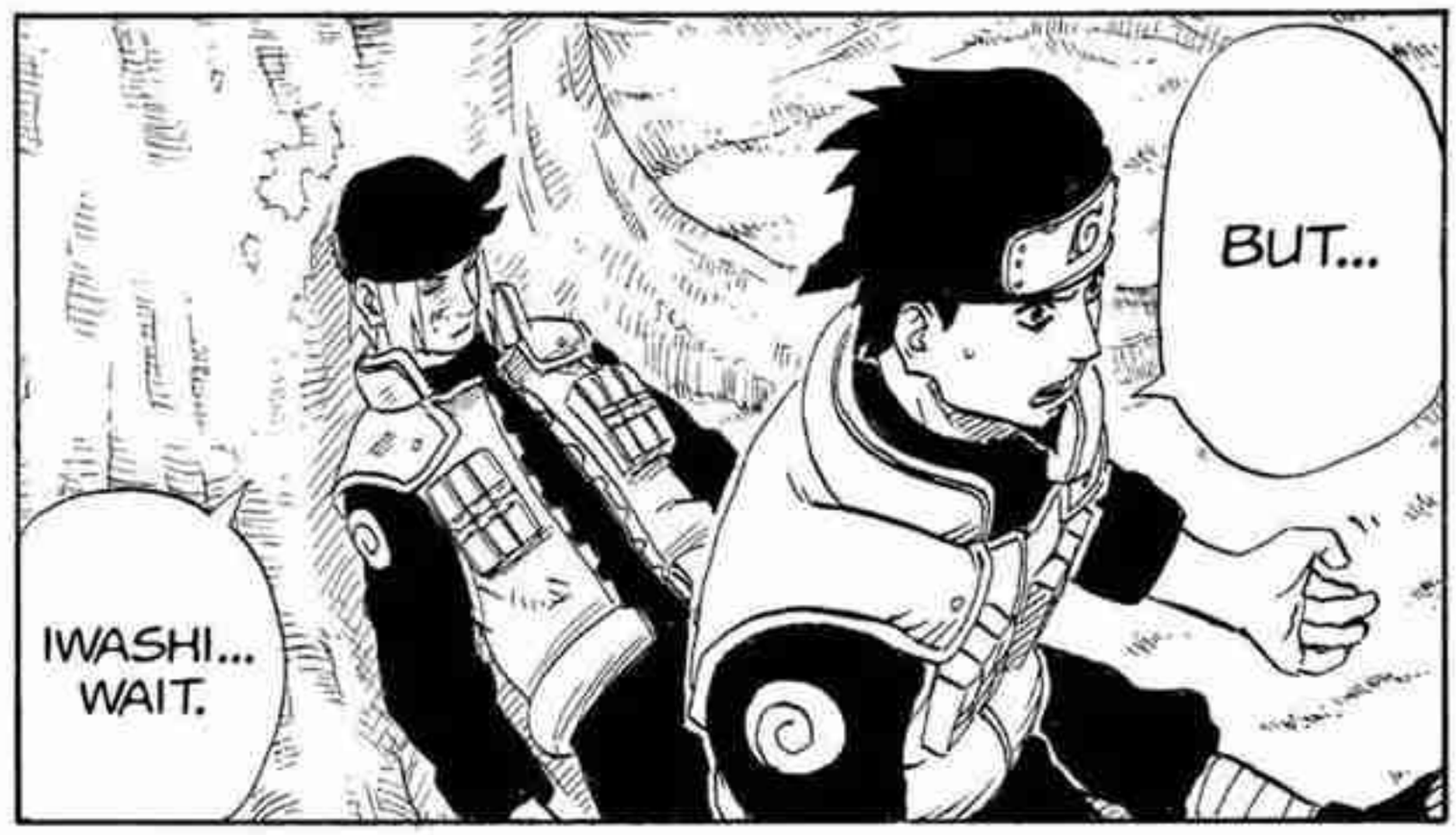
URK...

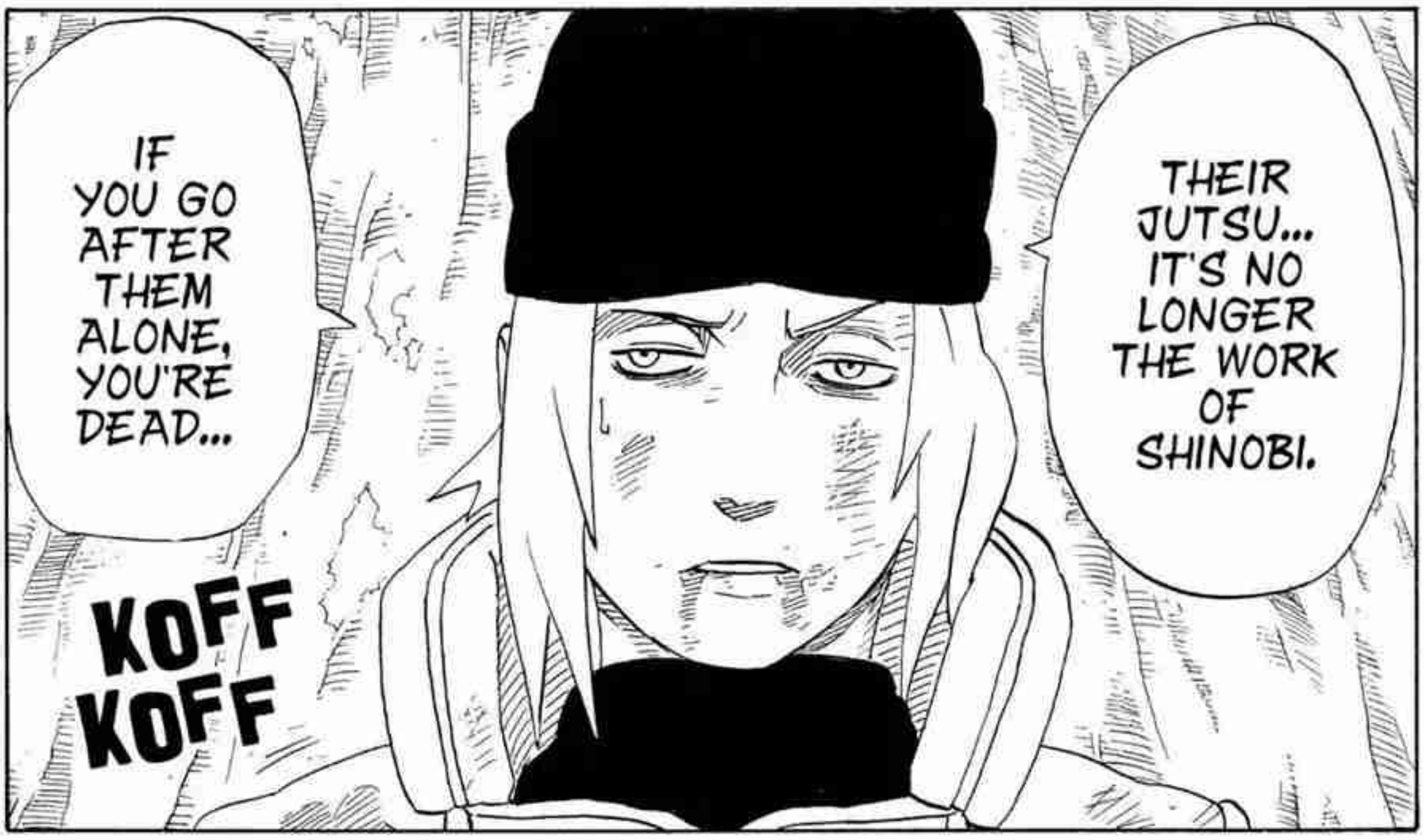

DON'T!

FIRST AID IS ALL I CAN DO NOW...

I'M HEADING AFTER THEM!
SHIZUNE.

...!

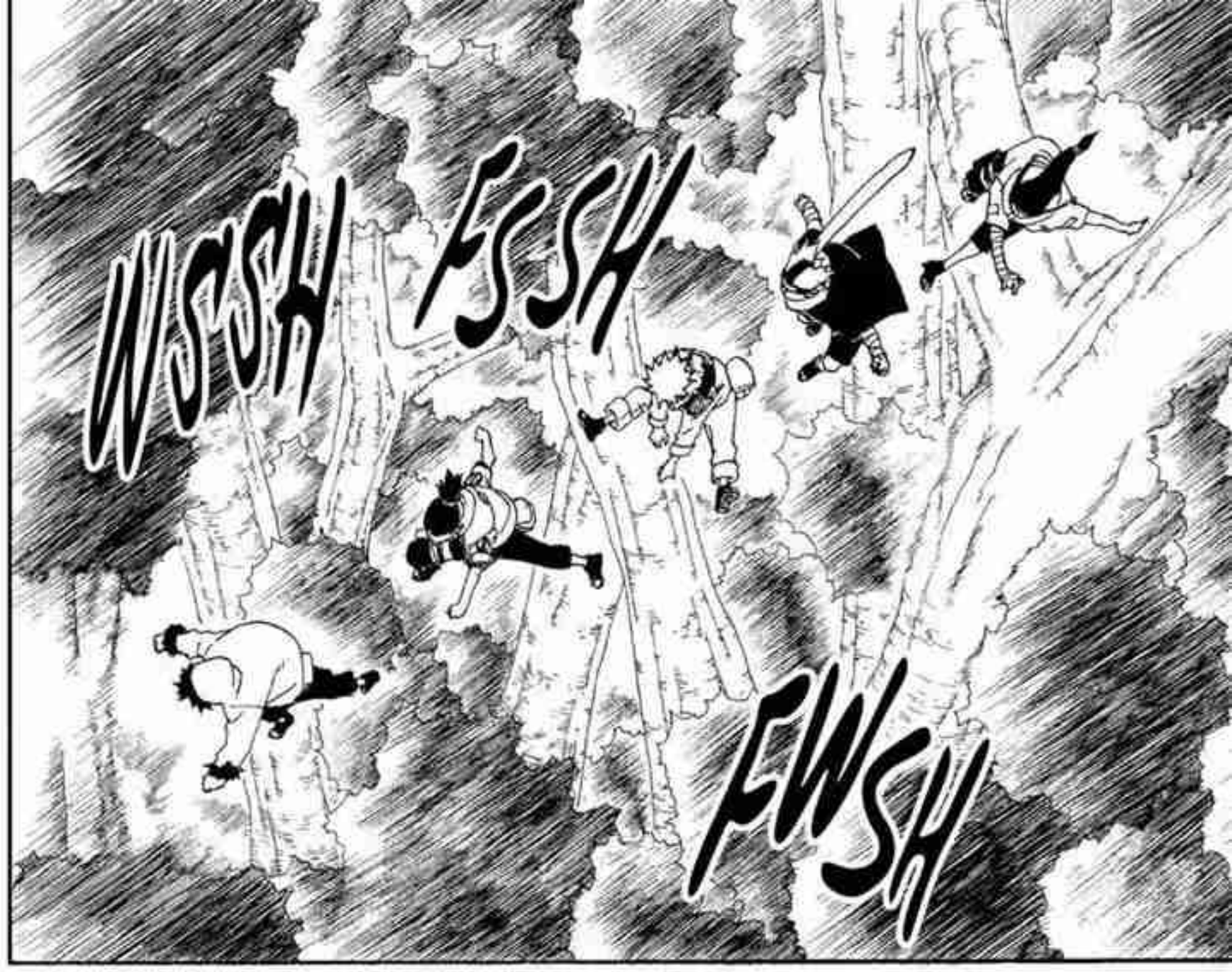

IWASHI... WAIT.
BUT...


IF YOU GO AFTER THEM ALONE, YOU'RE DEAD...
KOFF KOFF
THEIR JUTSU... IT'S NO LONGER THE WORK OF SHINOBI.

...

GENMA... DON'T SPEAK.
KAFF KAFF

!
SNFF SNFF


WSSSH
FSSSH
FWSH

!
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT ...
WHAT DO WE DO?
THEIR SCENTS WERE JOINED BY TWO NEW TRACES...
BUT NOW THE ORIGINAL FIVE ARE LEAVING THE BLOOD ZONE!

YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE HERE. THAT'S UP TO SHIKA-MARU TO DECIDE.
SHUT UP, NARUTO!

LET'S JUST CATCH UP TO SASUKE!

THIS IS TURN-ING INTO A REAL PROB-LEM...
HE HAS ESCORTS.

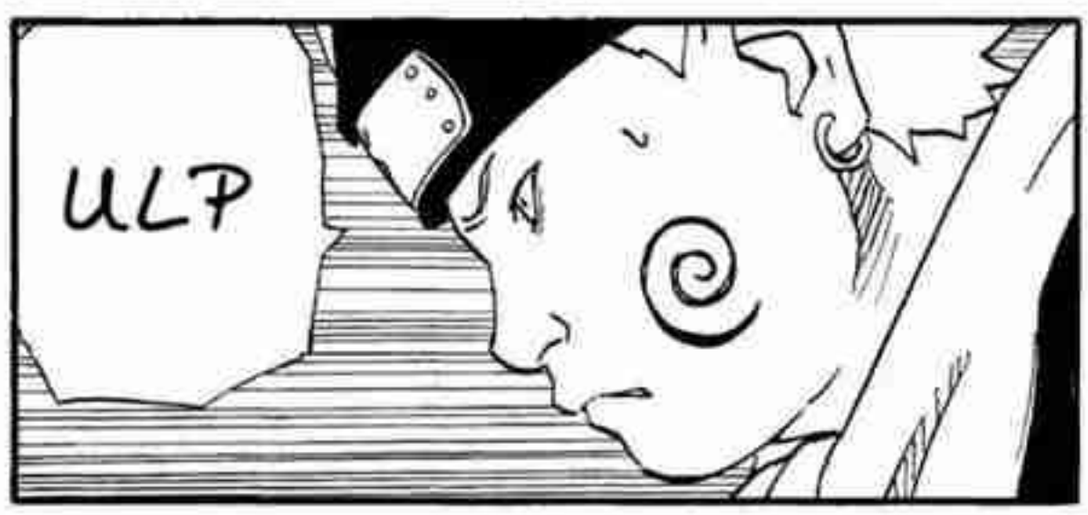
I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT TURN UP SOMETHING BY INVESTI-GATING...

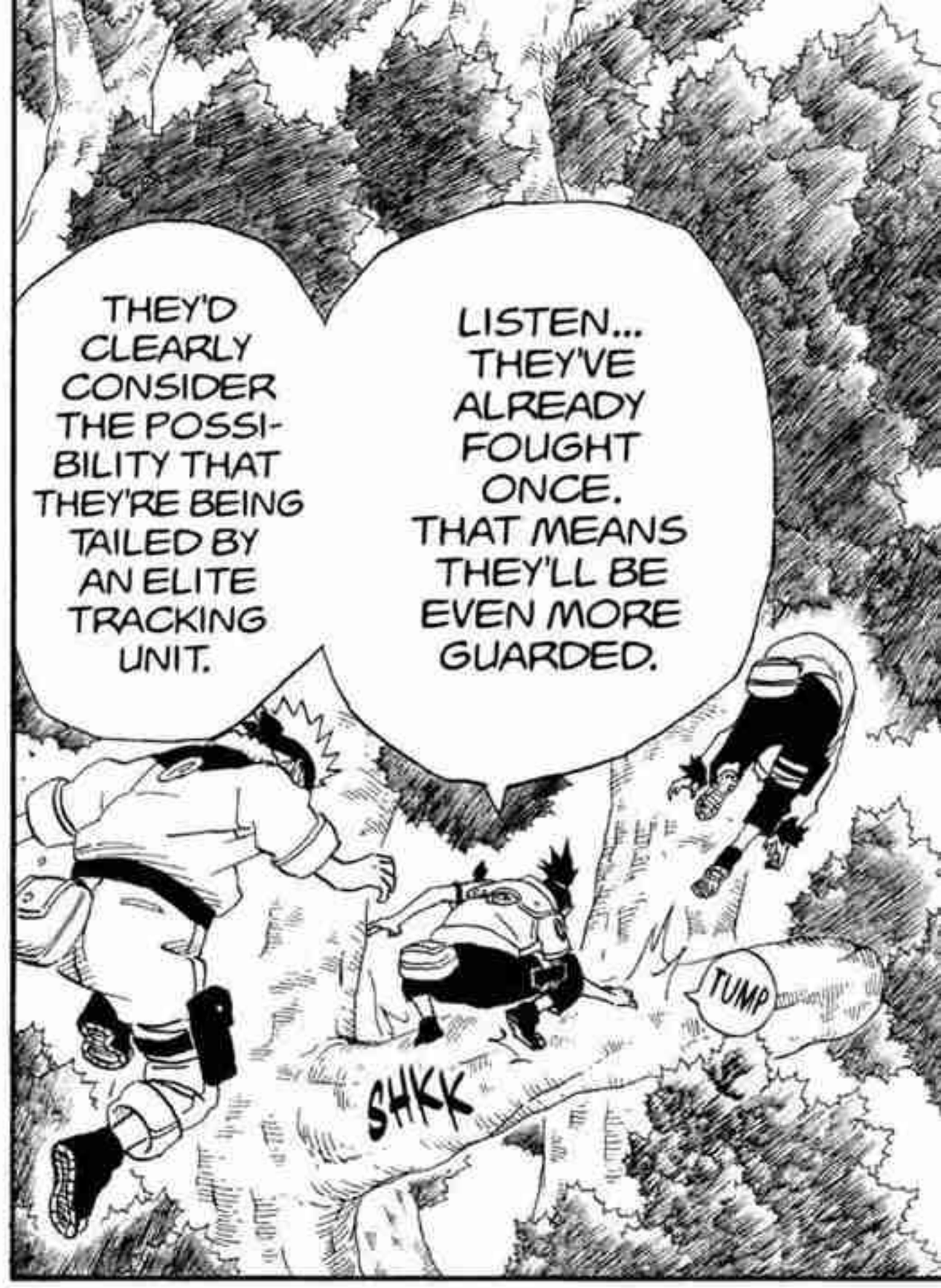
BUT WE CAN'T JUST TEAR IN HALF-COCKED. WE'LL HAVE TO SWITCH GEARS TO SCOUT MODE AND CREEP IN AT GROUND LEVEL...

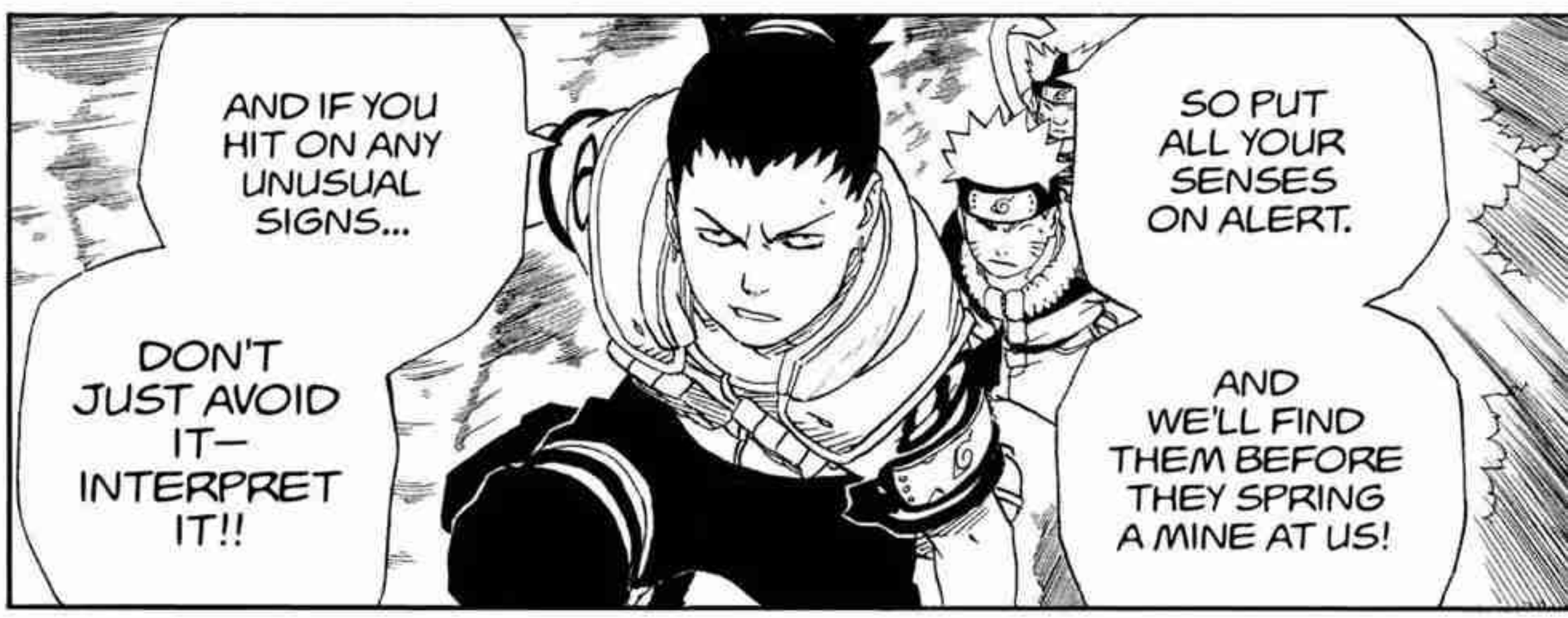
IF THERE'S THE SMELL OF BLOOD...

THAT MEANS THERE WAS A FIGHT.

CHANCES ARE, THEY'VE LAID TRAPS AND ARE LYING IN WAIT.
THUMP


ULP


THEY'D CLEARLY CONSIDER THE POSSI-BILITY THAT THEY'RE BEING TAILED BY AN ELITE TRACKING UNIT.
LISTEN... THEY'VE ALREADY FOUGHT ONCE. THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE EVEN MORE GUARDED.
TUMP
SHKK


AND IF YOU HIT ON ANY UNUSUAL SIGNS...
DON'T JUST AVOID IT— INTERPRET IT!!
SO PUT ALL YOUR SENSES ON ALERT.
AND WE'LL FIND THEM BEFORE THEY SPRING A MINE AT US!

WHEN WE FIND 'EM, I'LL USE MY NEW TECHNIQUE AND SMASH 'EM TO JELLY!!
OKAY!

!
TWIK

SHEESH... AND AFTER I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM.
NARUTO... EVERY TIME I SEE HIM, HE'S GOT SOME NEW TECHNIQUE UP HIS SLEEVE.

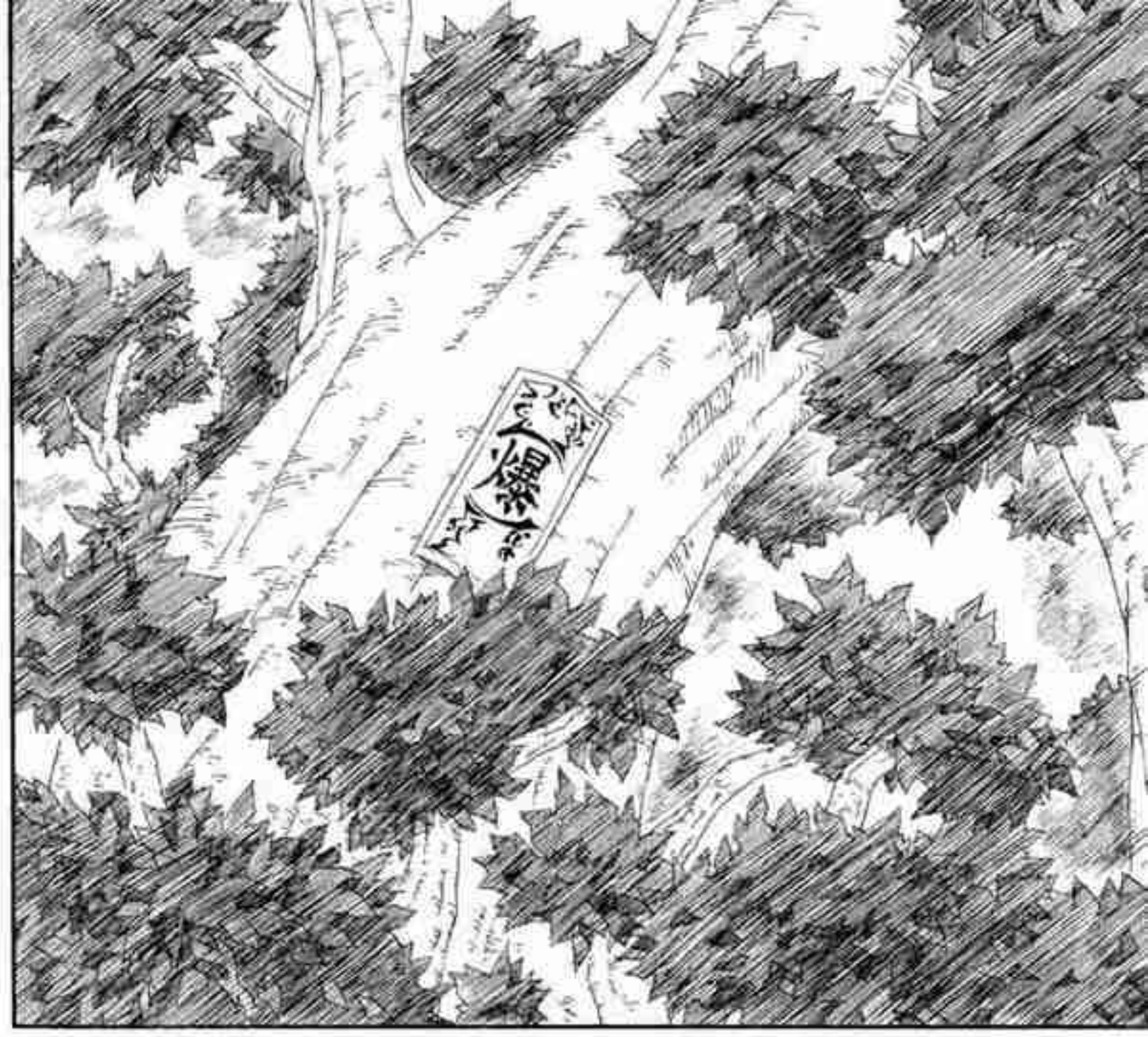
THIS PLACE REEKS OF THE ENEMY!
HEY!

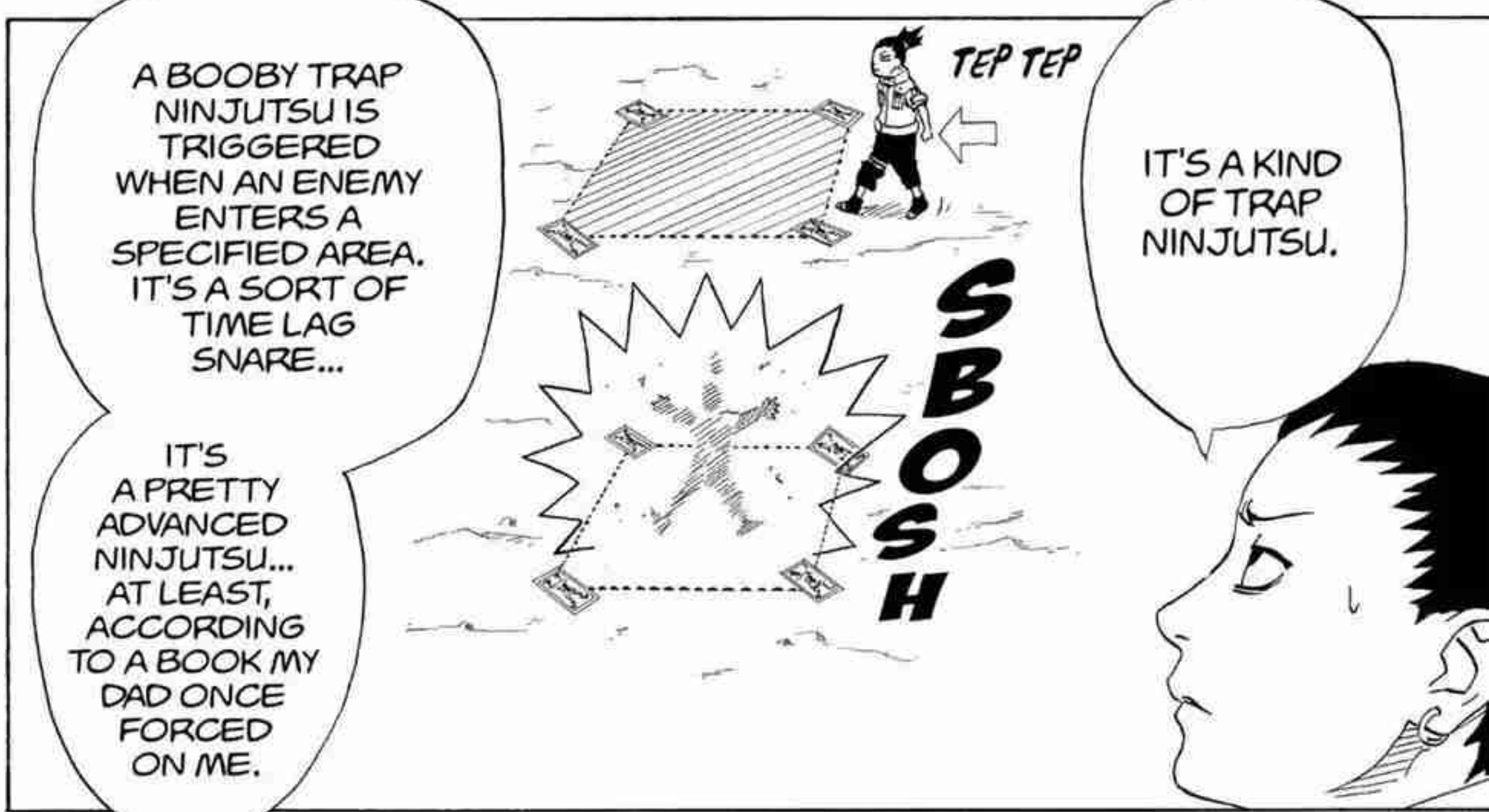
STOP, EVERY-ONE!!

LOOK UP THERE, CARE-FULLY.

SHFF SHFF SHFF SHFF

THEY'RE FORMING A PERIMETER BARRIER.
A LETTER BOMB... I SEE FIVE MORE...
PERI-METER BARRIER ?




A BOOBY TRAP NINJUTSU IS TRIGGERED WHEN AN ENEMY ENTERS A SPECIFIED AREA. IT'S A SORT OF TIME LAG SNARE...
IT'S A PRETTY ADVANCED NINJUTSU... AT LEAST, ACCORDING TO A BOOK MY DAD ONCE FORCED ON ME.
TEP TEP
SBOSH
IT'S A KIND OF TRAP NINJUTSU.

THEN WE'D BETTER MAKE A DETOUR ...
GREAT ...

HEY, NARUTO, LOOK OUT FOR THE WIRE!

YEAH...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REFINE THEM.
URRGH. THESE TRAPS ARE EVERY-WHERE.

WIRE AGAIN?
COME ON, NARUTO! DON'T TRIP ON IT!!

SST
I KNOW, I SAW IT!

WAIT, NARUTO!

HUH ?!

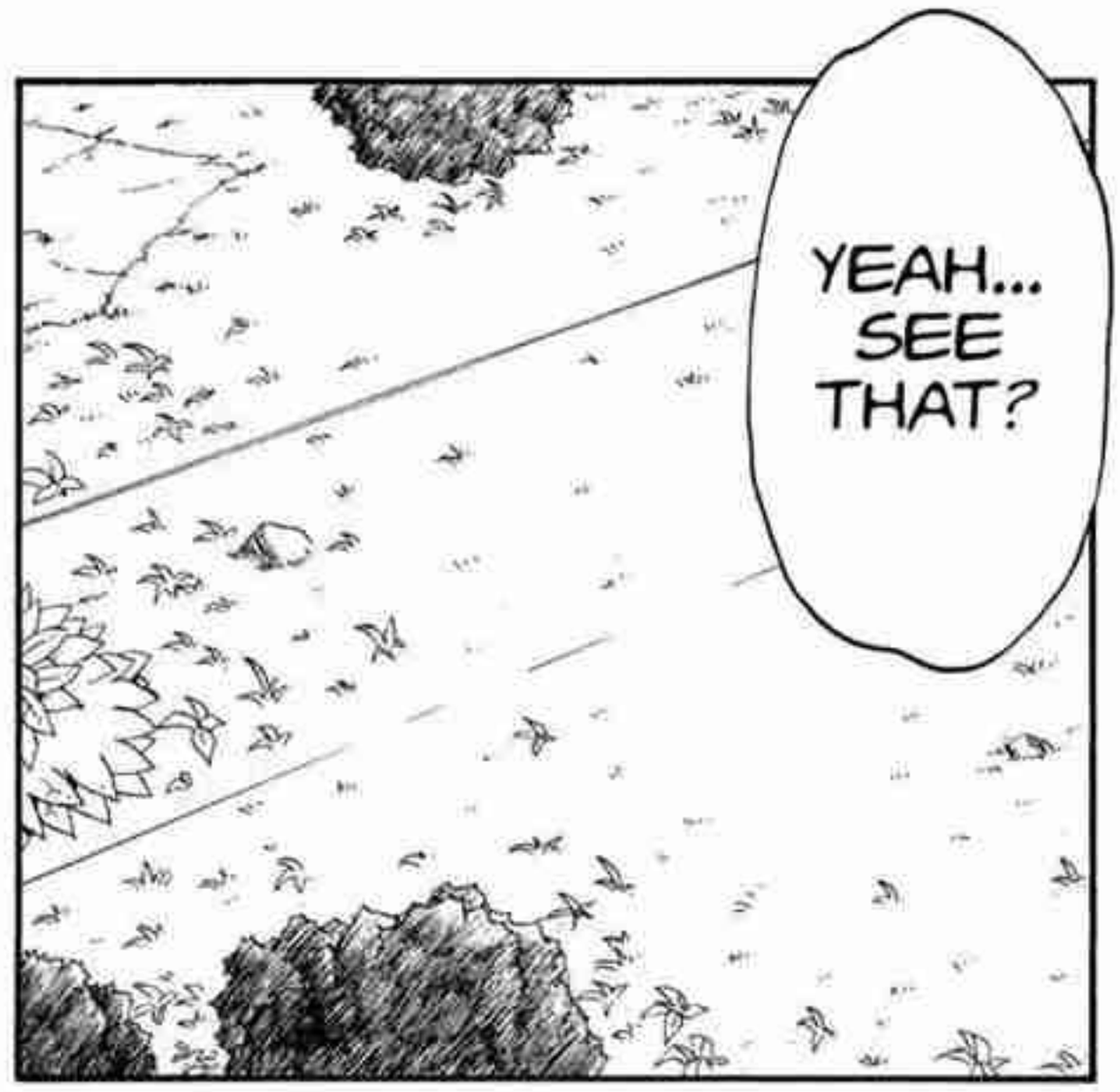
SHF

TWIK TWIK

SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE! I GOT YOU IN THE NICK OF TIME...

NARUTO! I TOLD YOU TO WATCH OUT!!

READ THIS WAY
...MAKING IT HARD TO SEE.
THE FIRST WIRE REFLECTS THE LIGHT SO IT'S EASY TO NOTICE, BUT THE SECOND ONE IS FROSTED GREEN...
IT'S DOUBLE JEOPARDY.

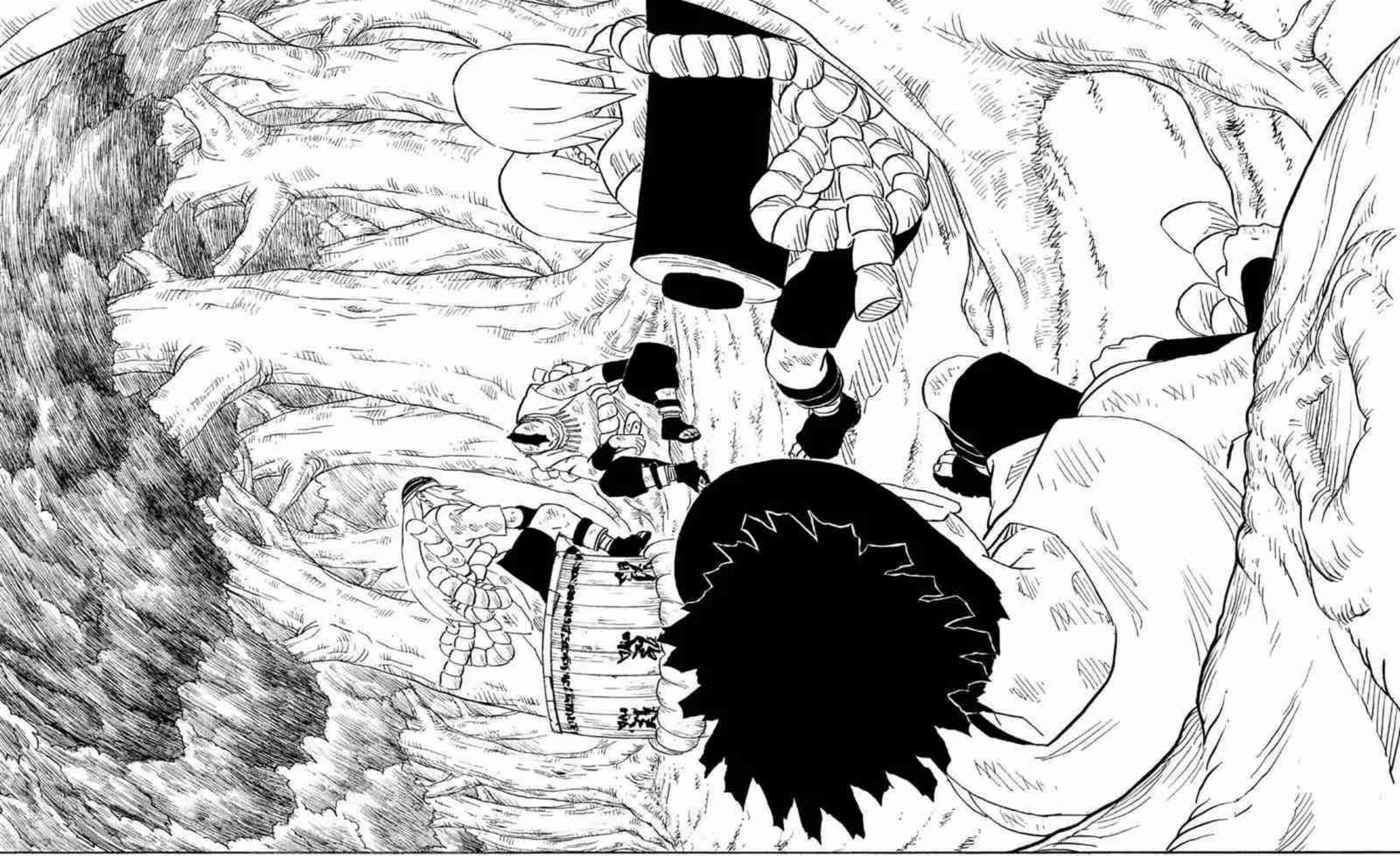

YEAH... SEE THAT?

THEY MIGHT BE WOUNDED... OR IT'S JUST A RUSE...
THEY'RE TAKING A BREAK.

WHICH MEANS ...
FOR SOMEONE IN HASTE, IT'S AN ELABORATE TRAP.

DOOM

BYAKUGAN!

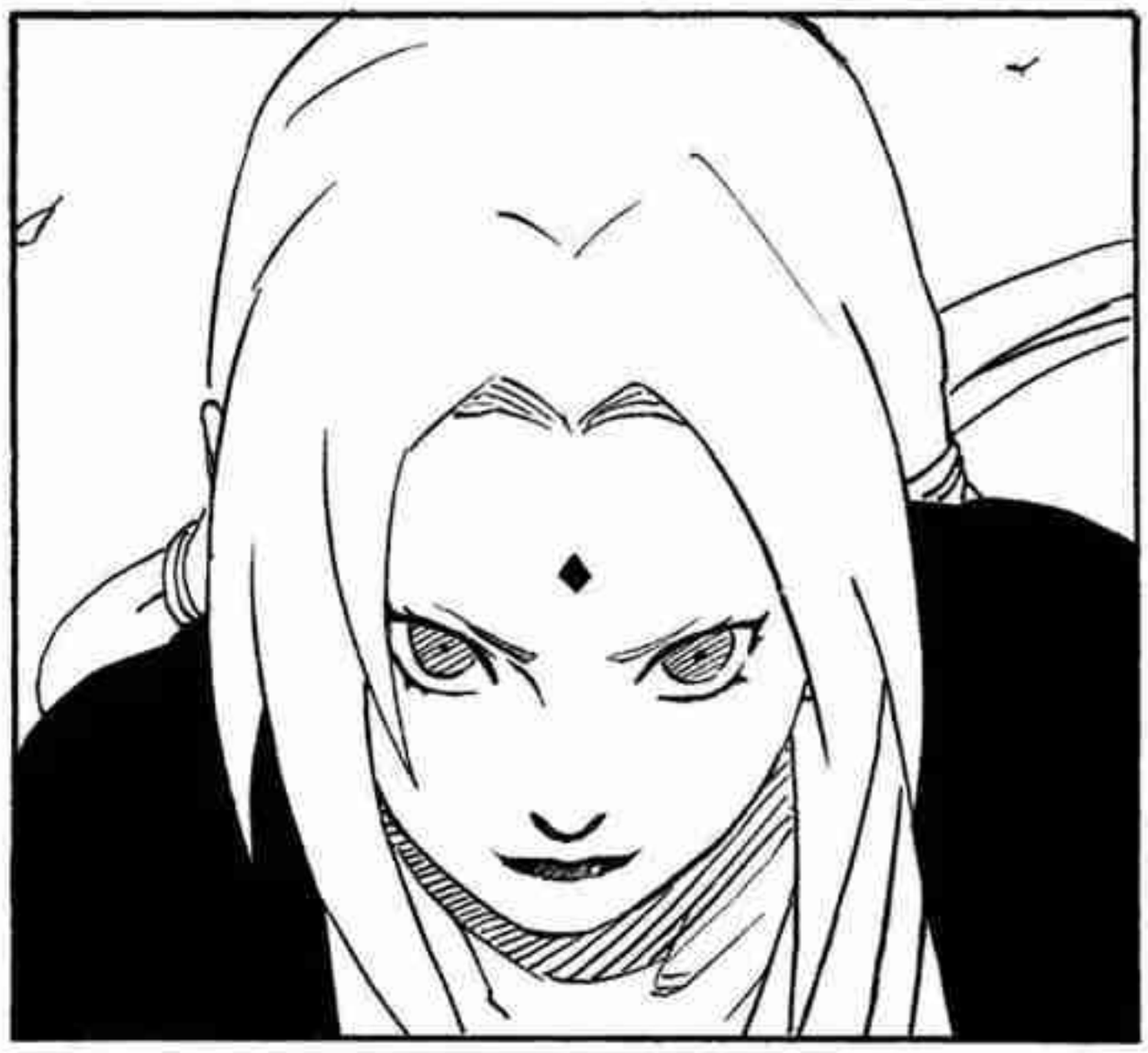


GOT THEM!

SORRY, NARUTO, IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW OFF MY LATEST TECHNIQUE.

I'M GONNA BRING BACK SASUKE FOR SURE!
YEE-HAW!

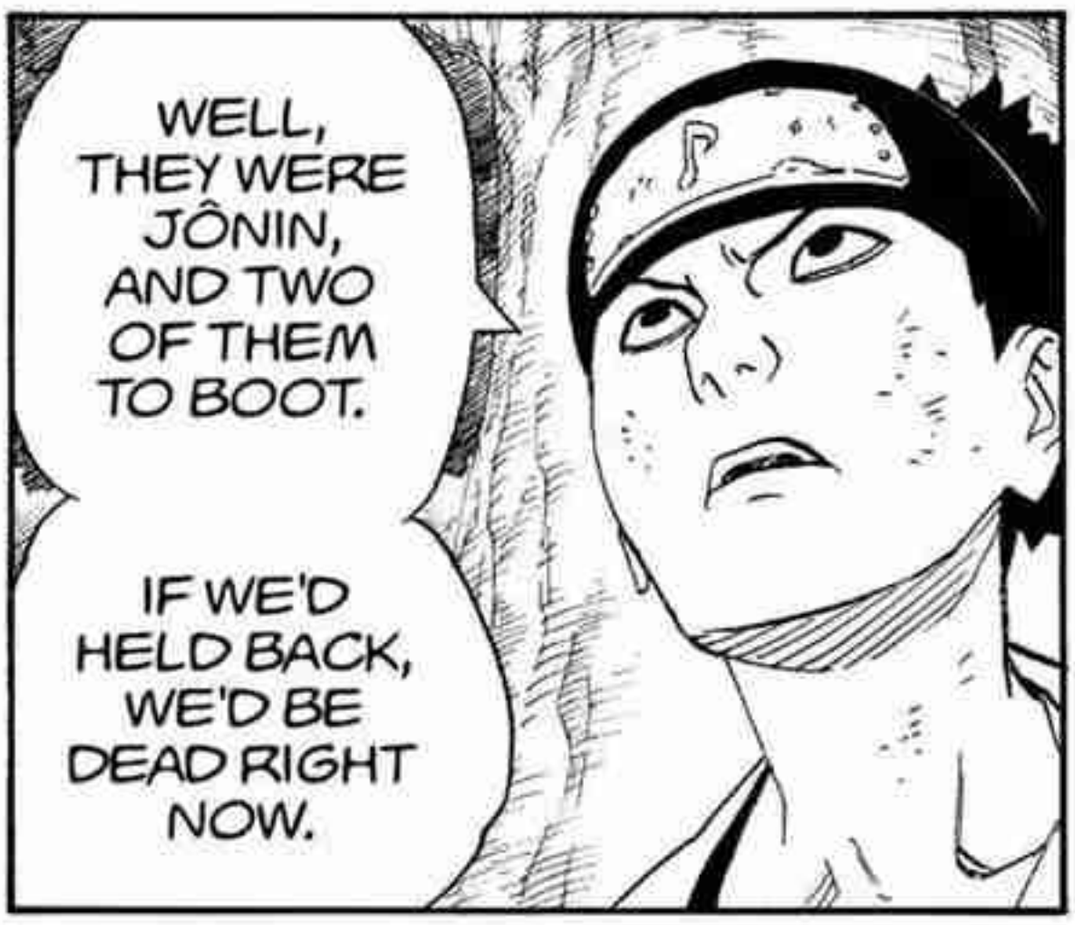
WE'LL HIT OUR TARGET... JUST AS SOON AS I KNOCK OUT A STRATEGY...
DON'T BE IMPATIENT.
WHAT ABOUT ME?!

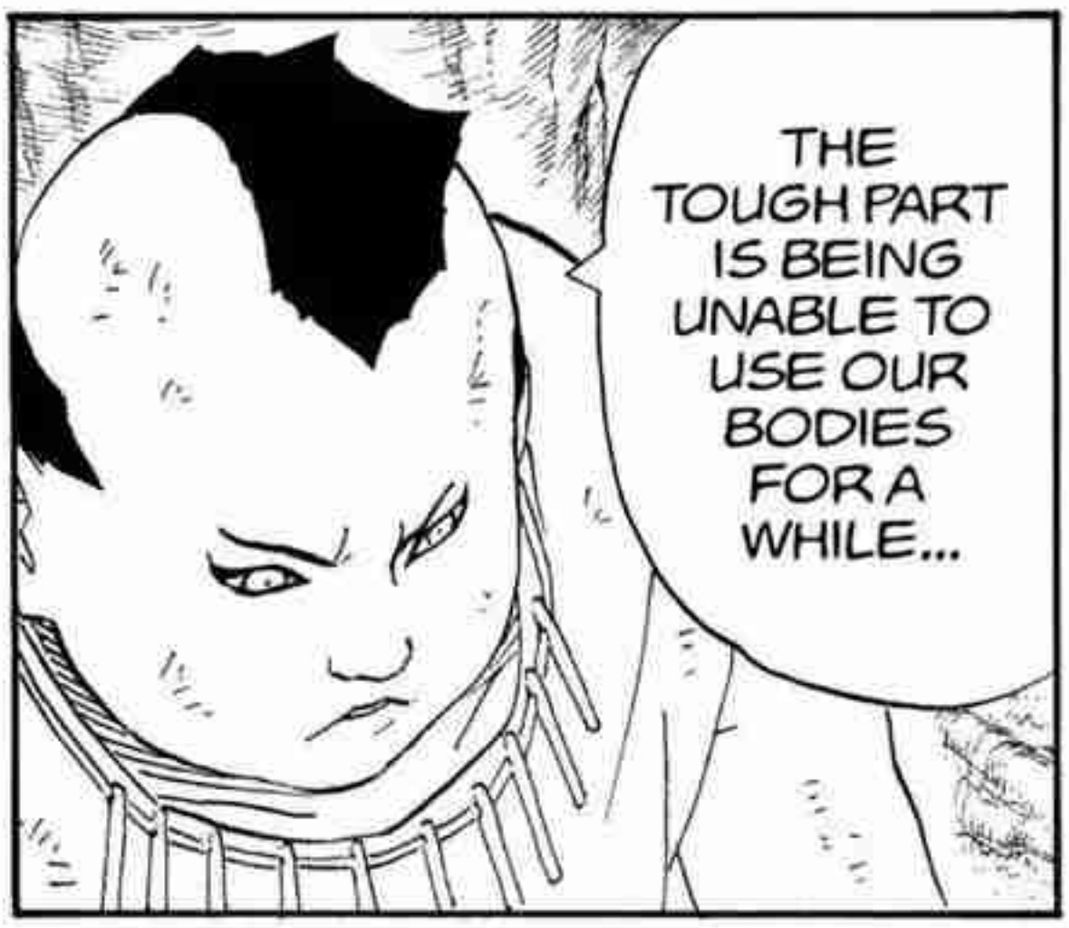


Number 186:
にしお酒店
にしお
にしお
Failure...?!

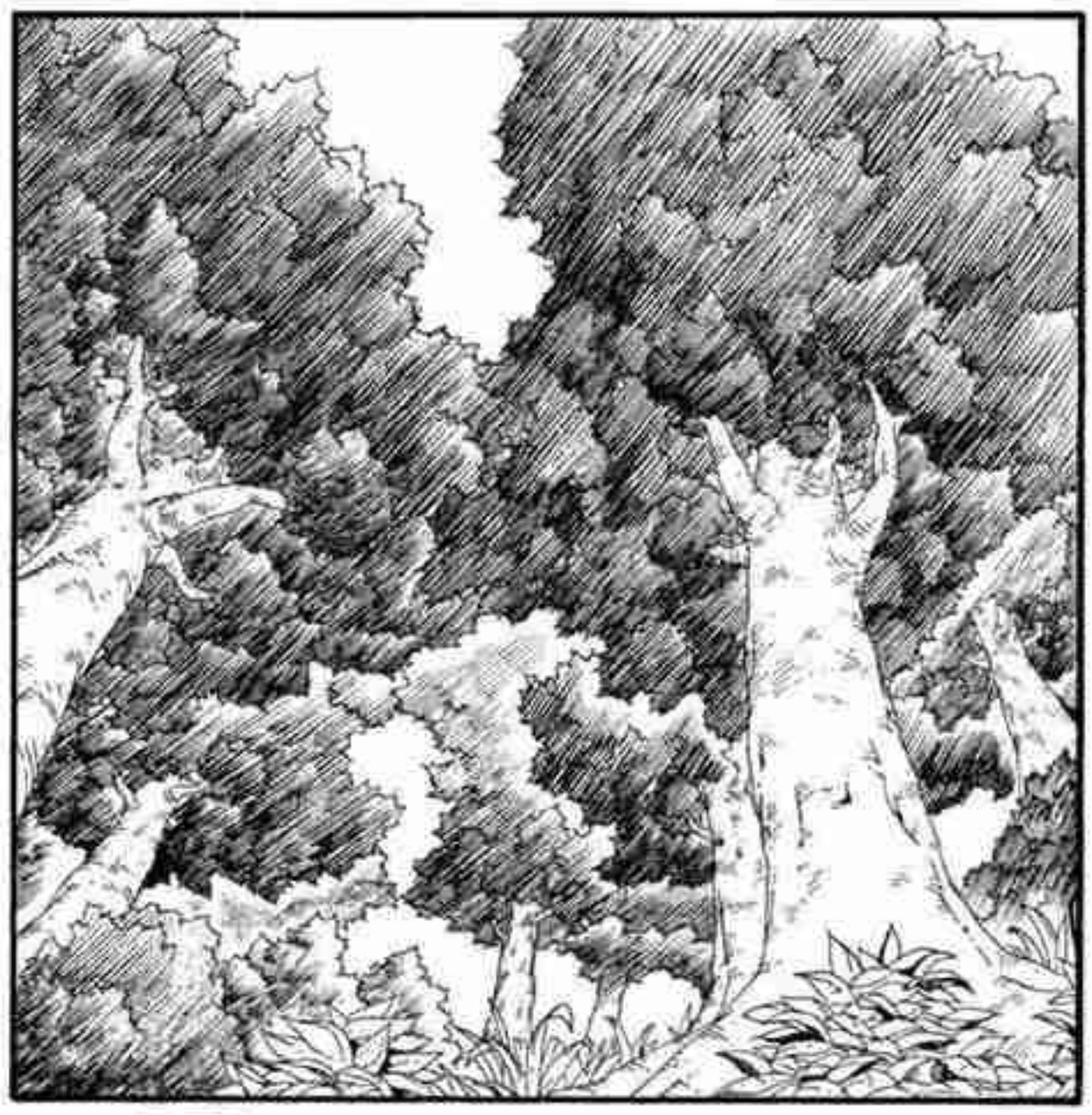
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
FIGHTING IN OUR SECOND STATE TOOK A TOLL ON ALL OF US.

HERE WE ARE, IN SUCH A HURRY...
AND WHAT ARE WE DOING? KICKING OUR FEET UP.
DRAT.


WELL, THEY WERE JÔNIN, AND TWO OF THEM TO BOOT.
IF WE'D HELD BACK, WE'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.


THE TOUGH PART IS BEING UNABLE TO USE OUR BODIES FOR A WHILE...

YEP.
KIBA, MAKE SURE YOU TIME THE SMOKE BOMB ACCURATELY. IT'S IMPERATIVE.

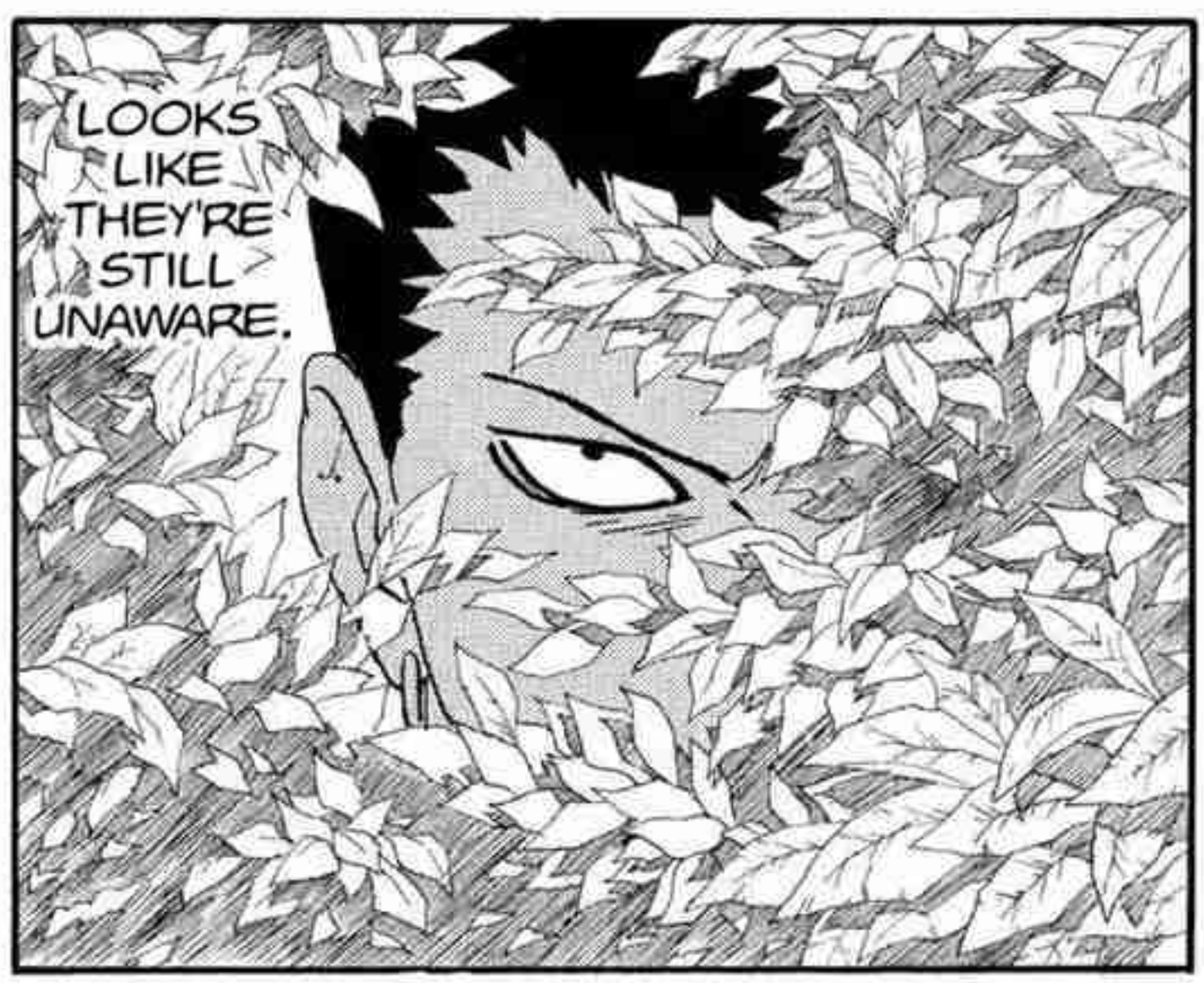


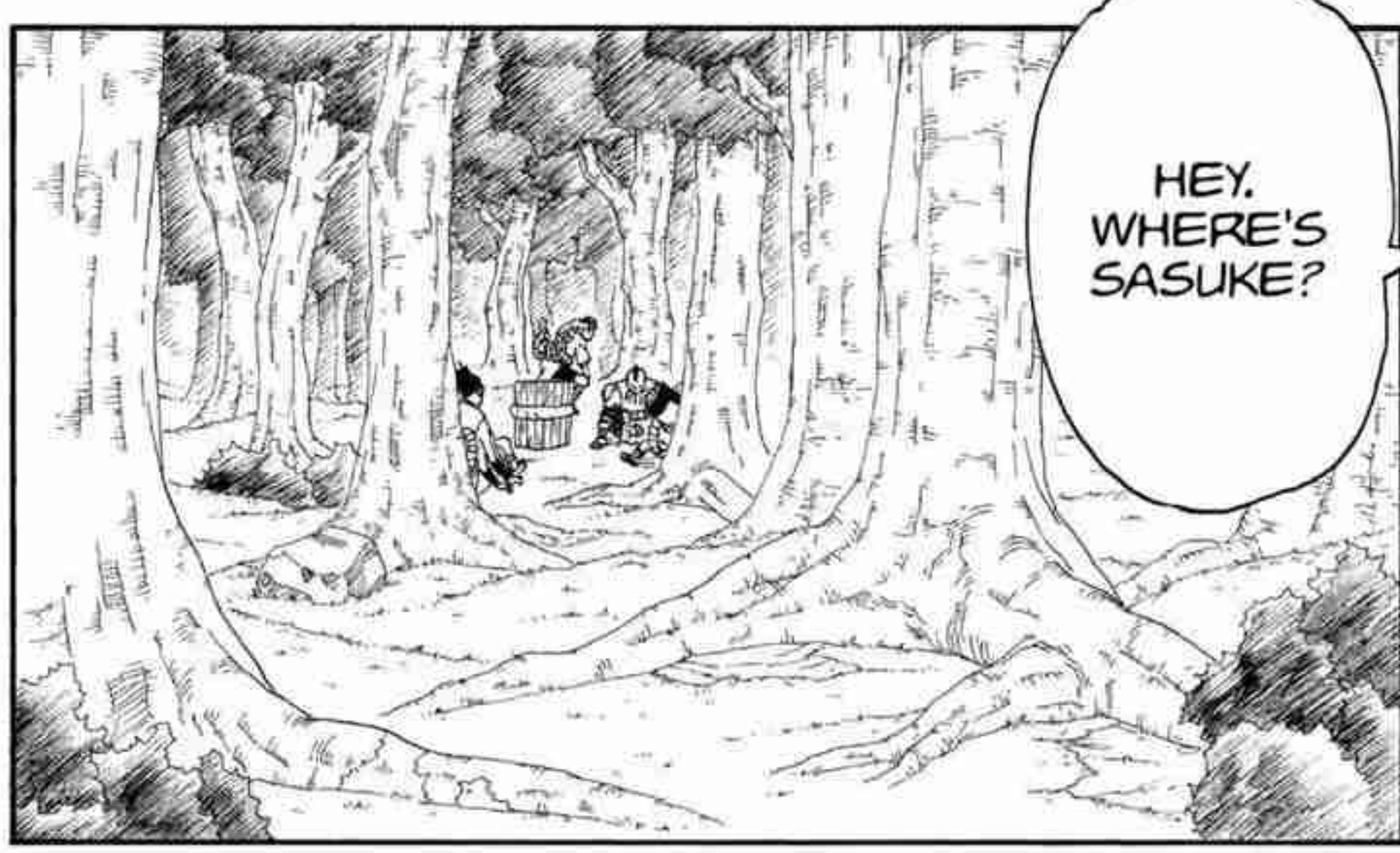
ALL RIGHT. LET'S SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.

TUNG
TUNG

SHFF

!
TWIK


LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL UNAWARE.


HEY. WHERE'S SASUKE?

?!

MY GUESS IS...

HMM ...

IS HE DEAD ?!

HE'S PROBABLY IN THAT COFFIN.

封

TRUE ENOUGH...

...WOULDN'T KILL HIM SO ABRUPTLY.

I SAY, ANYONE WHO WANTED SASUKE THAT BAD...

...

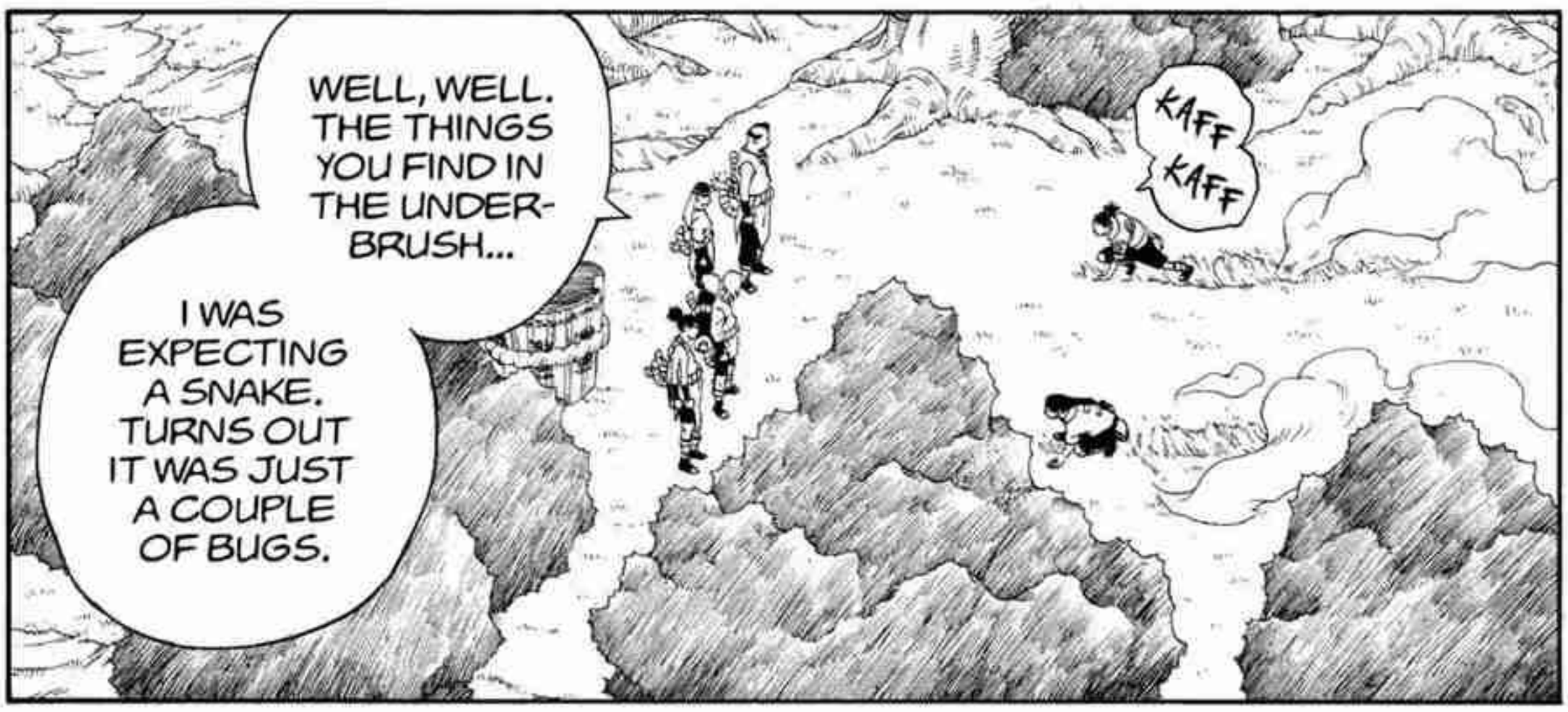
封

THE COFFIN IS SEALED WITH BARRIER NINJUTSU. IT'S HARD TO SEE THROUGH...

PFOF
SPLAK
!!
KFSSH
FSSH

PKOOMM
UGH!!
UGAH!
SKRSSSHHHH

URG.


WELL, WELL. THE THINGS YOU FIND IN THE UNDER-BRUSH...
I WAS EXPECTING A SNAKE. TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF BUGS.
KAFF KAFF

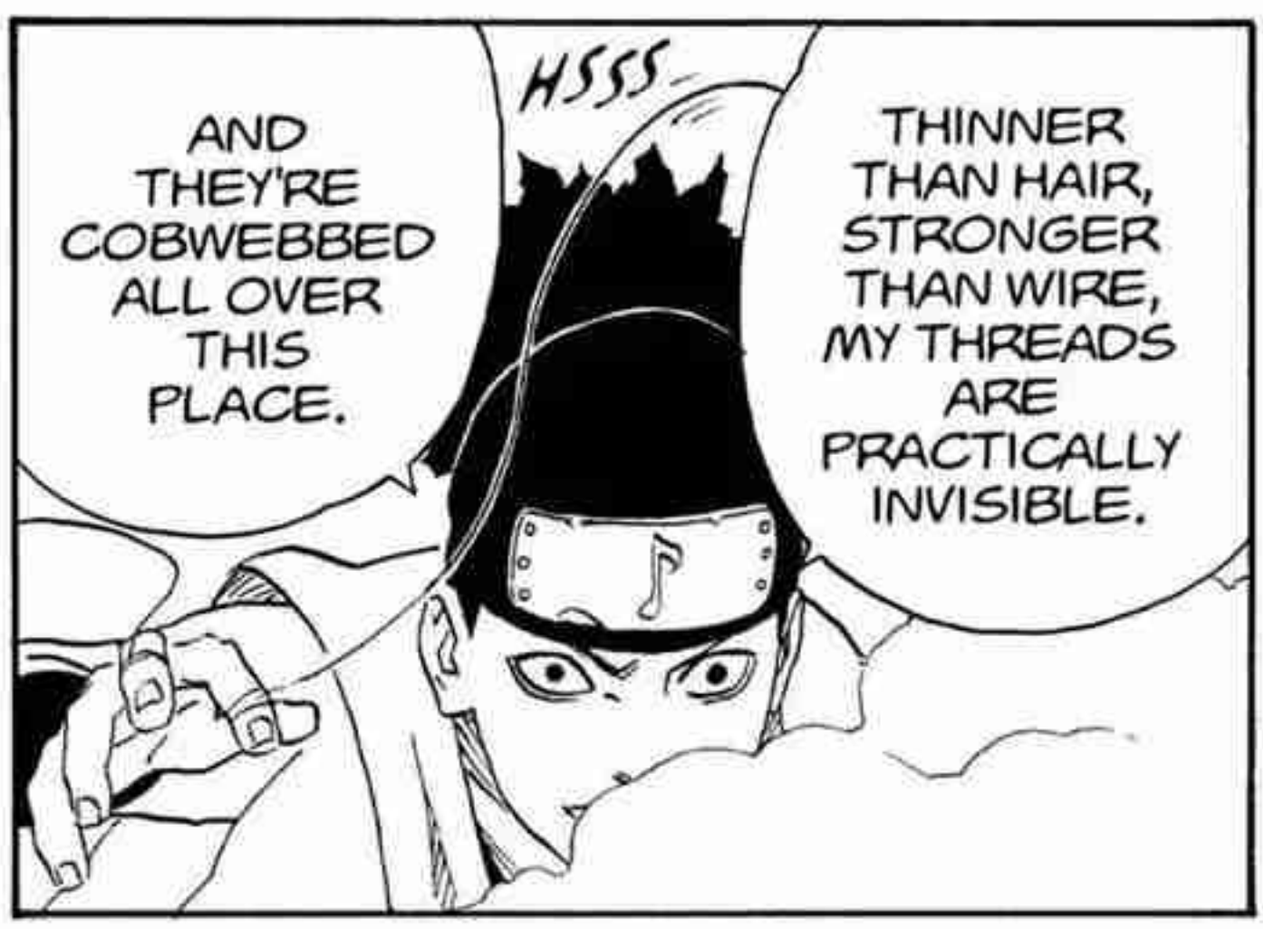
WE'RE HERE TO NEGO-TIATE.
WE DIDN'T COME TO FIGHT!

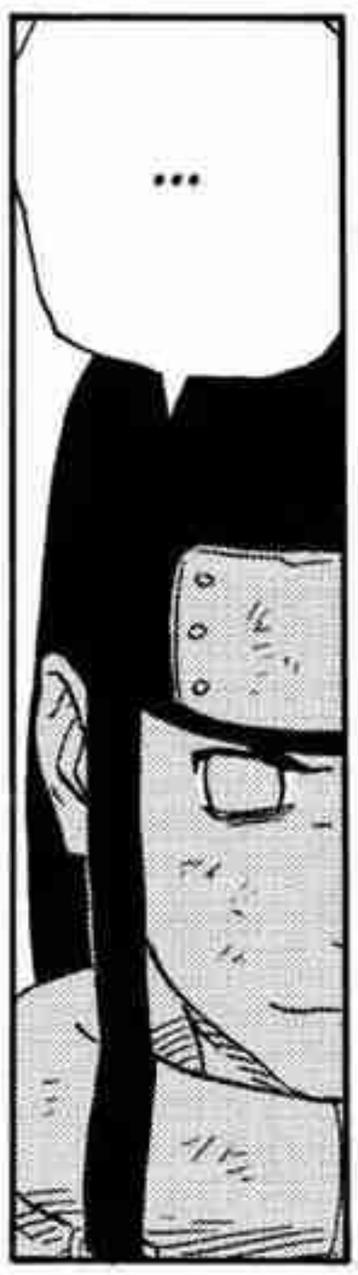
HANG ON A SEC!!
NOW JUST WAIT!

WSST

READ THIS WAY
!
!
SWOS
SH
THEN WHAT'S YOUR EXPLANATION FOR THIS?!
HMPH.
WUUAAH!!
SWOSSH
FO
OF
!
!!
SMIRK
SST

HEE HEE... WHAT DO YOU INTEND WITH THAT SMOKE BOMB? WHATEVER YOU DO, THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM ME.





CHALK ONE UP FOR THE SHADOW POSSES-SION!
YEAH, KIBA! SHIKA-MARU! NICE ONE!

W... WHA?
MY BODY...

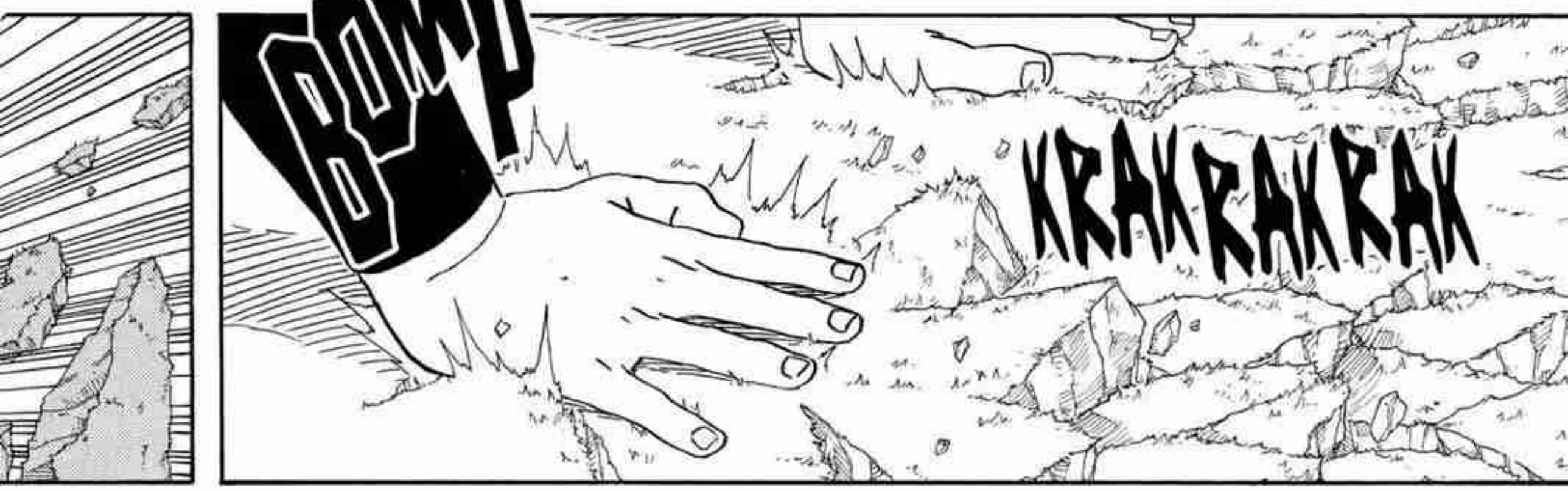
GUH
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU FOOLS!!

OH DEAR.

THOUGH I ADMIT YOU MADE IT EASY FOR ME. I MUST THANK YOU.
BUT YOU KNOW... I'VE GOT A FEW TALENTS MYSELF.
HEH...

I ALSO HAVE A POWER LIKE THIS.

THE THING IS...



SPUP

WHERE IN THE...

URK!

KNK

SHRK

KNK

!

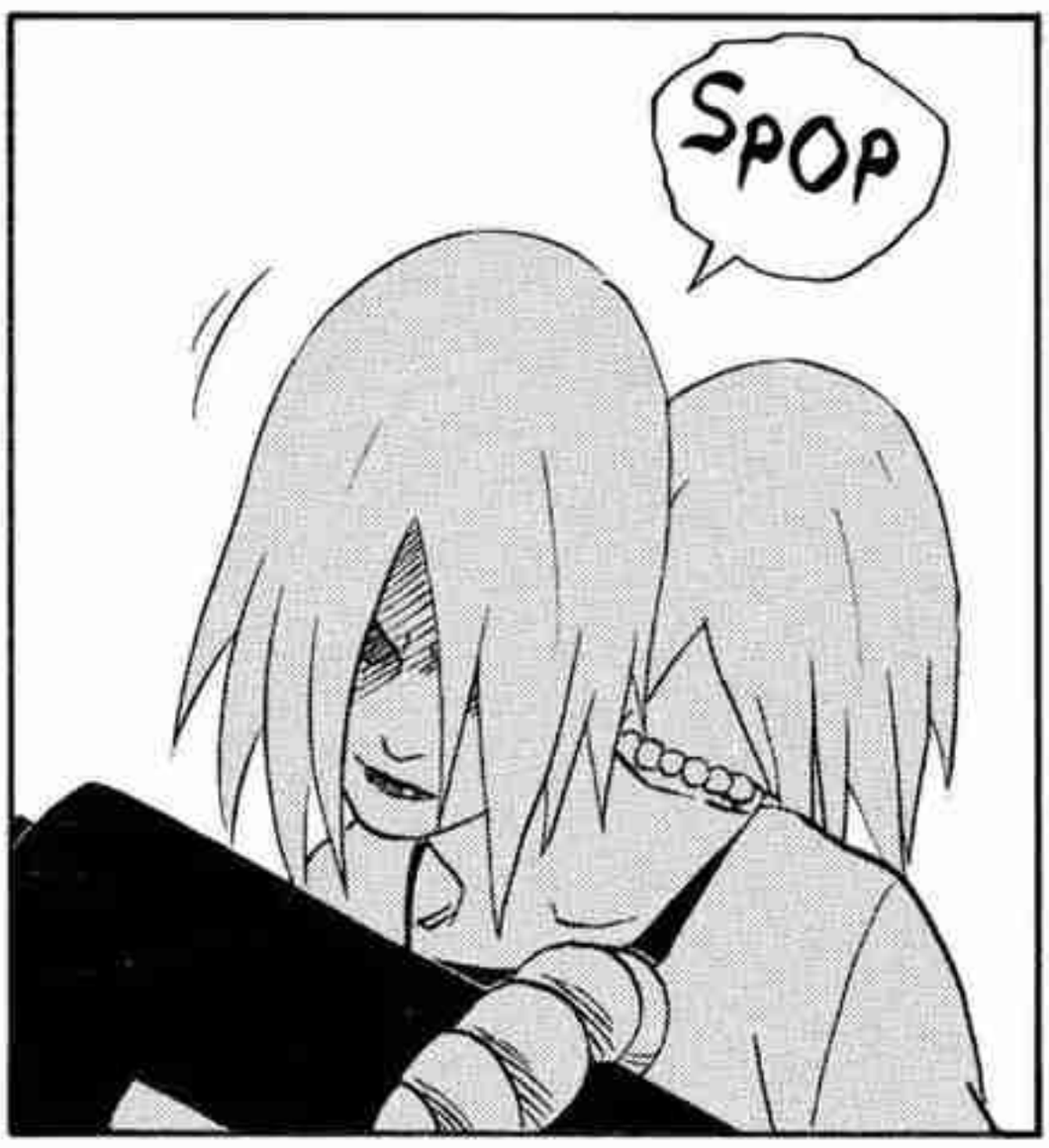
WHOA !!

KRAK

KRAK

SKLAMM

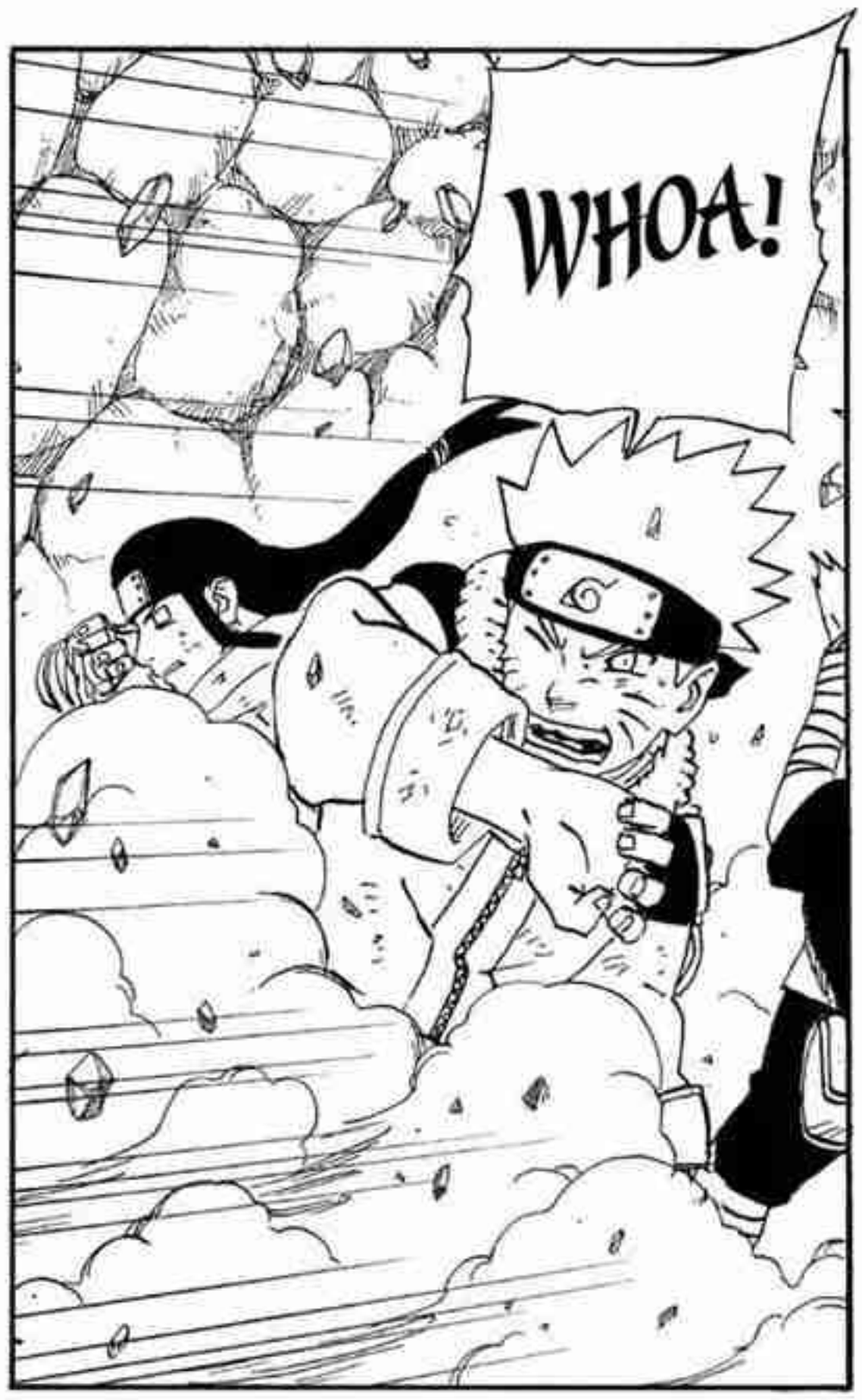
POP

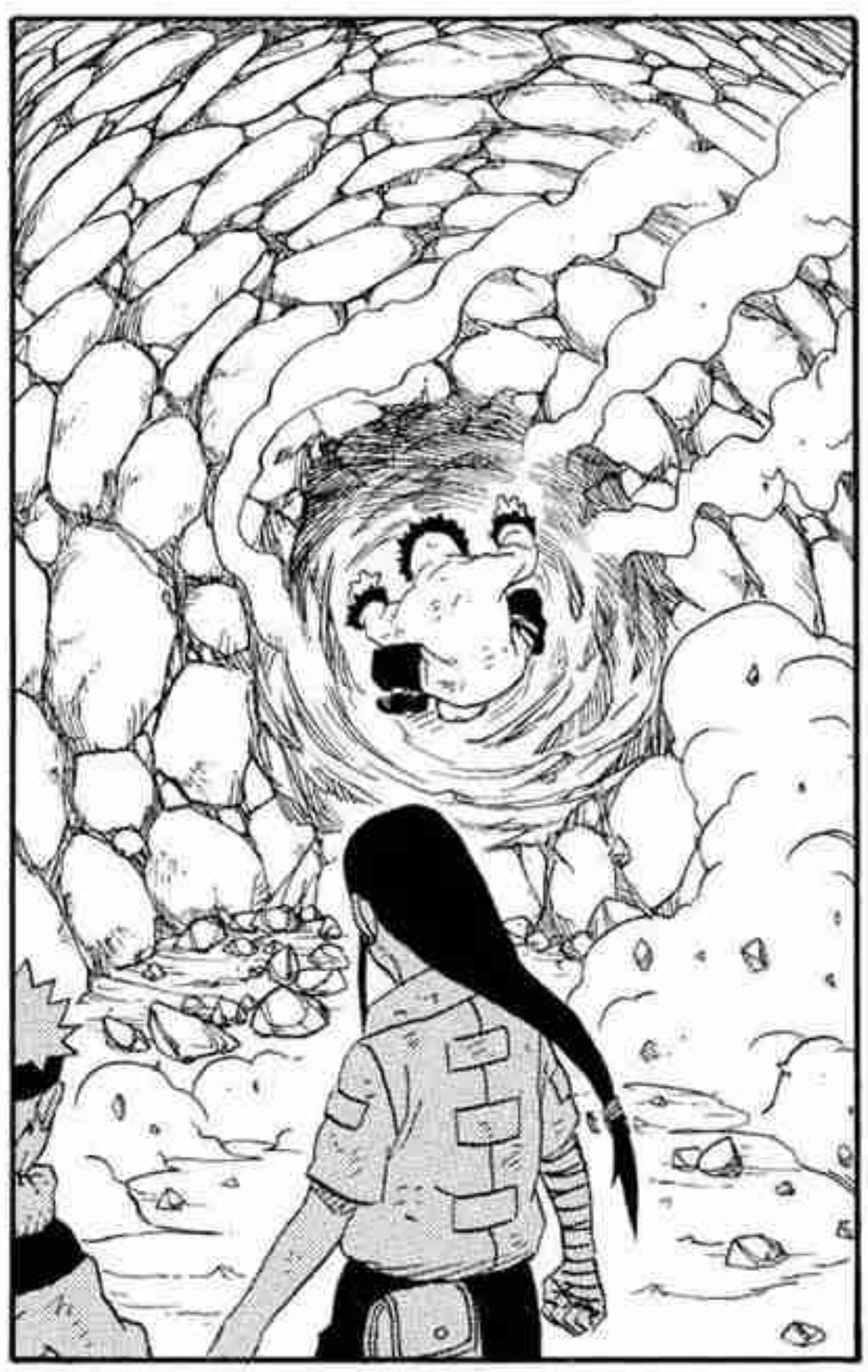

SPOP

NUTS!

HMPH... DEVOUR 'EM, THEN CATCH UP...
WE'LL GO ON AHEAD.
THEY'RE MINE.
I GOTTA GET BACK MY ENERGY, AND ALL...

READ THIS WAY
JUST MAKE IT FAST.
SHFF
SHFF
OKAY!
GET US OUT, DARN IT!
BAM
PLAPP
MOVE IT, NARUTO!
FWip
FOOM

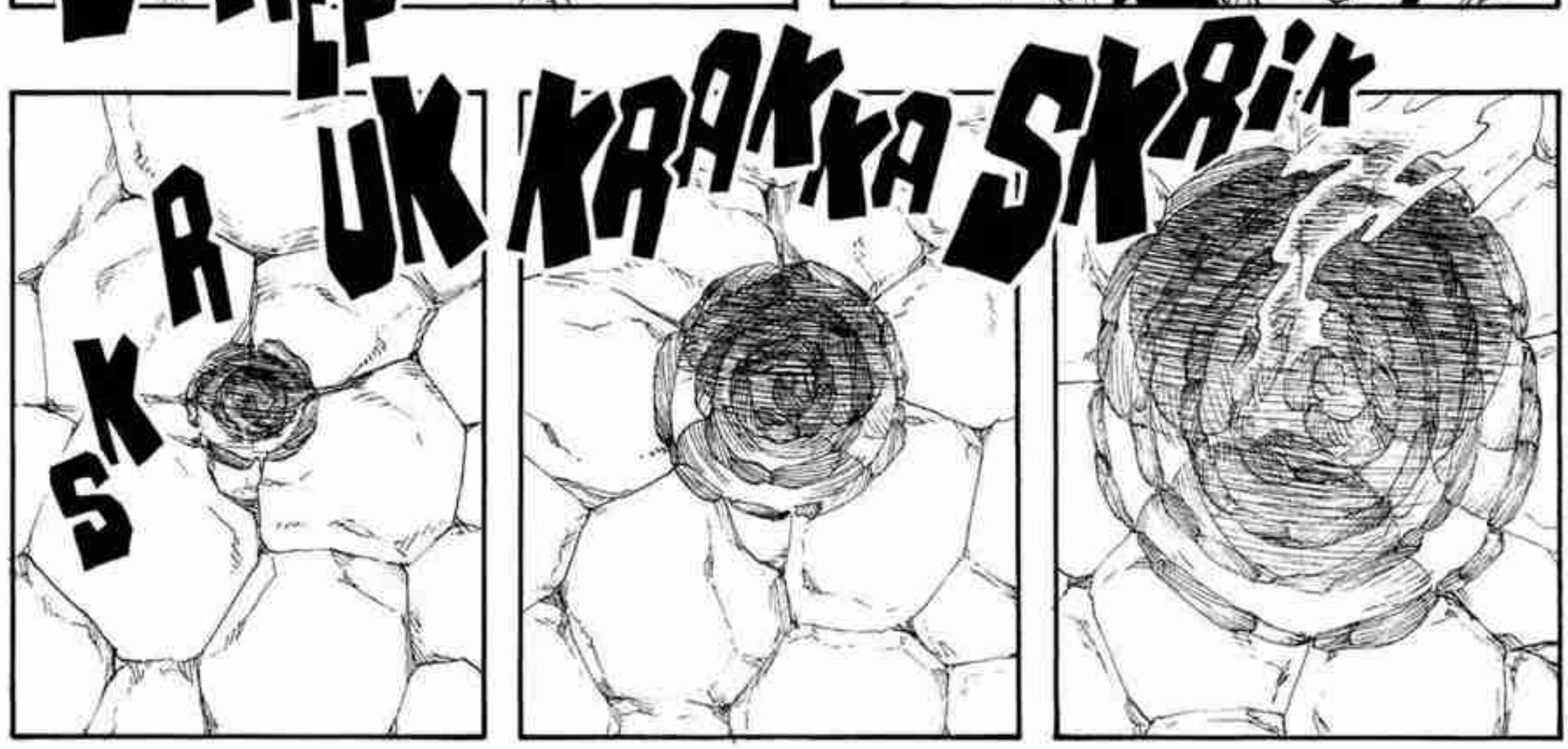

WHOA!



SKAR
TSUUGA! TUNNELING FANG!!

SKREP

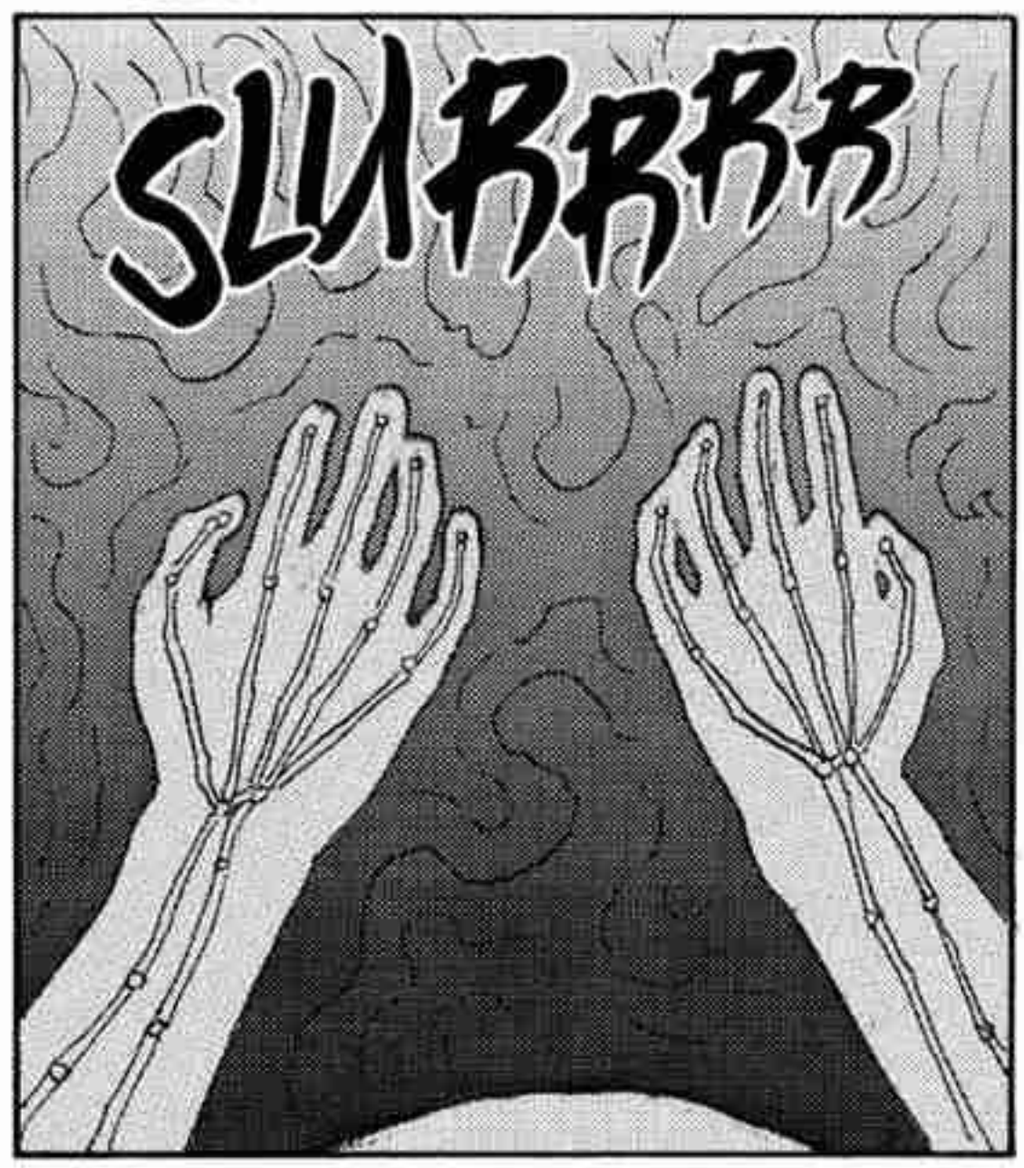
SHKK
!


SKRUK
KAHKA
SKRIK

GET US OUT!!
YEAH, I SAW IT.
HEY...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S MORE THAN JUST A DIRT WALL...

BYAKUGAN!

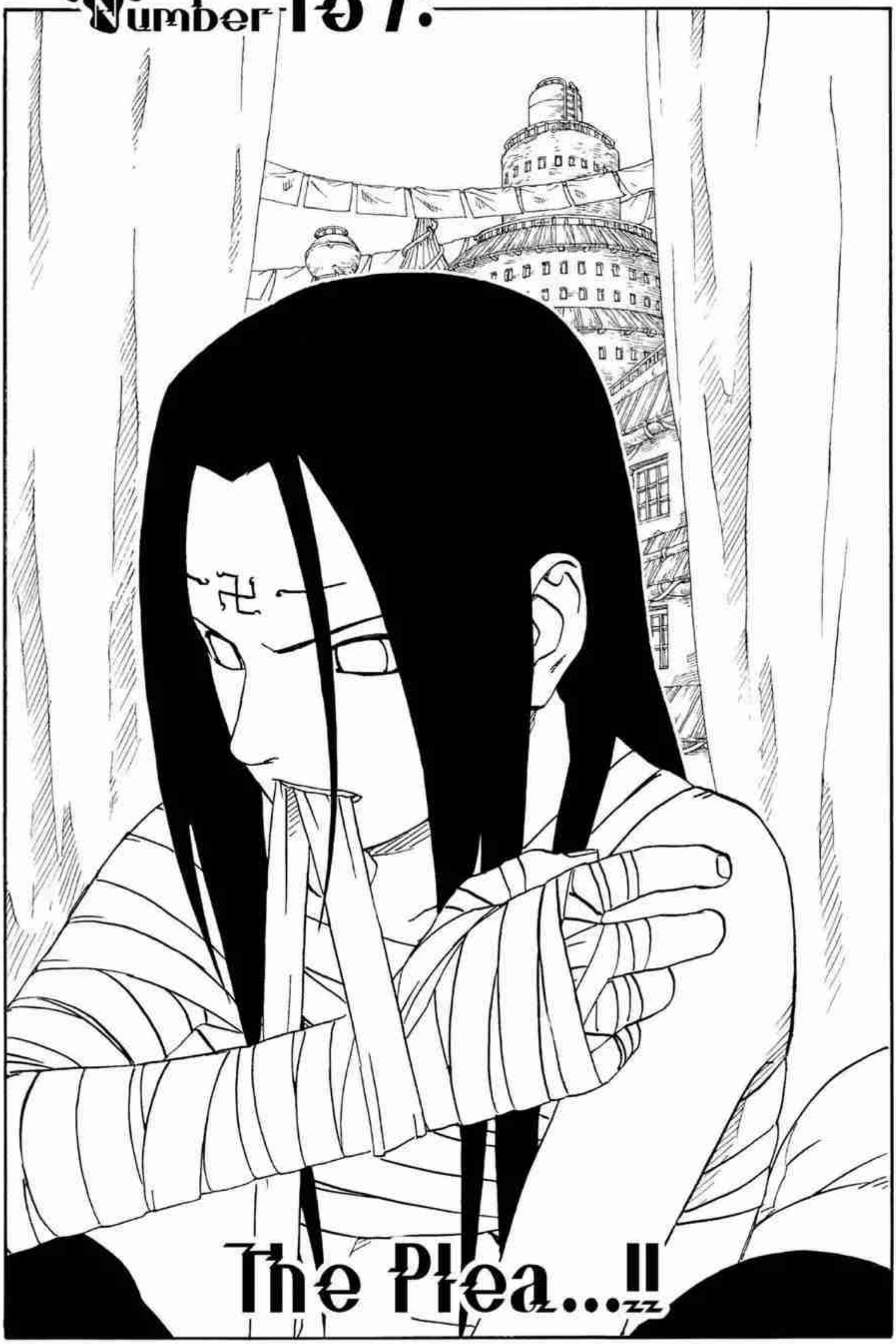

SLURRRR

WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
OH... HRM. IT'S...

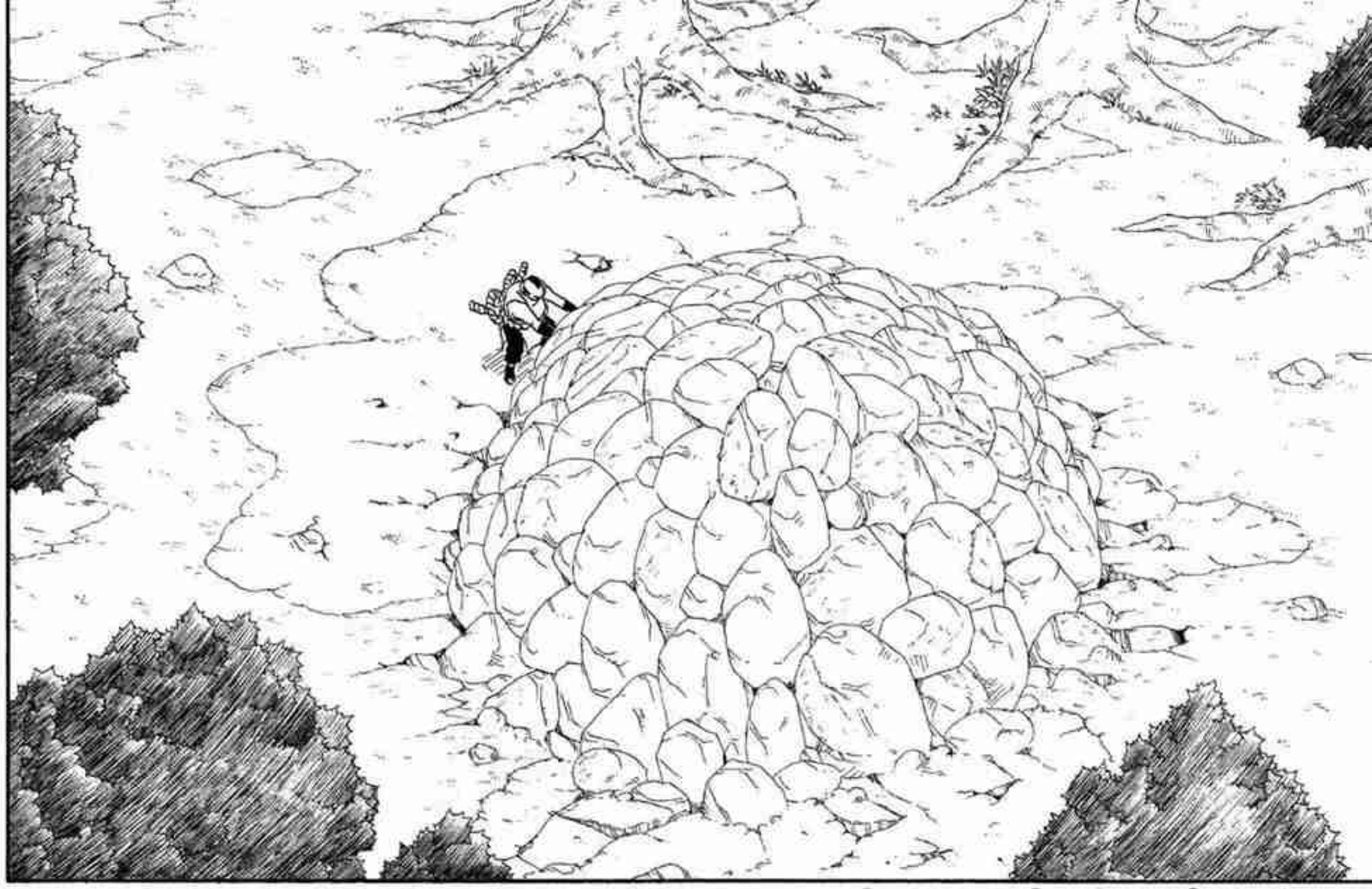
SLURR

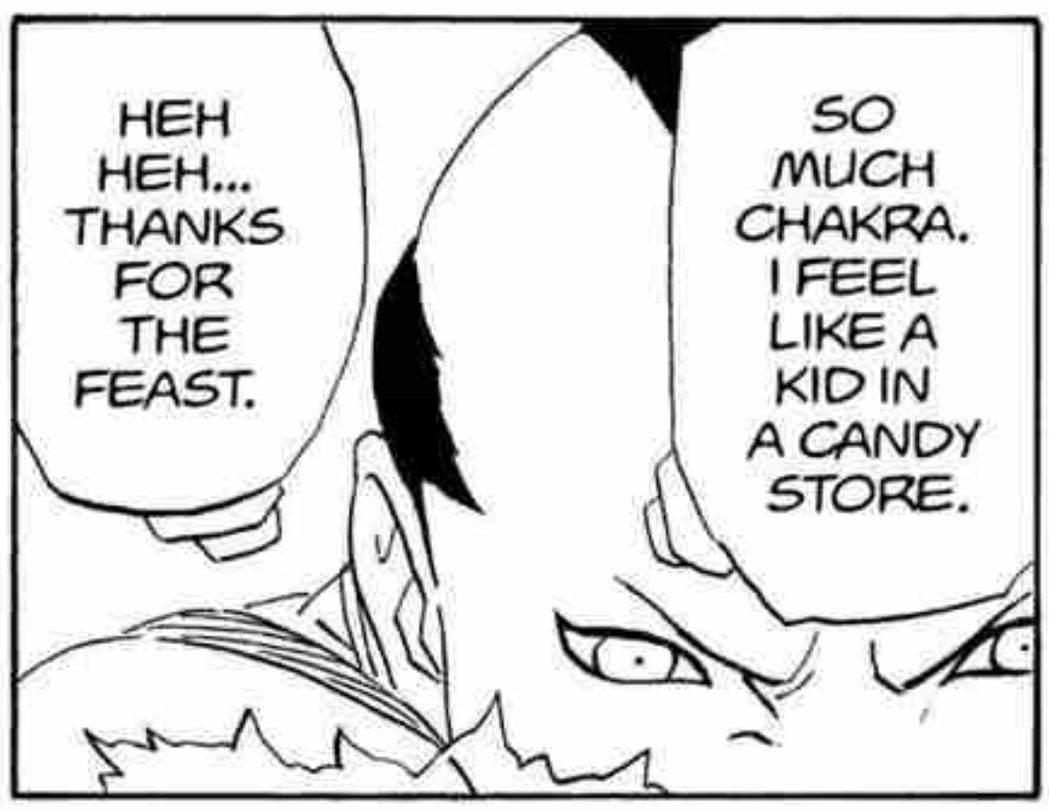
HE'S SIPHONING OUR CHAKRA LIKE LAMP OIL...
IT'S BAD...

Number 187:



The Plea...!!




HEH HEH... THANKS FOR THE FEAST.
SO MUCH CHAKRA. I FEEL LIKE A KID IN A CANDY STORE.

SLURRR

IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING SUCKED DRY...

URK...
SLUMP
SHFF

BWOOO

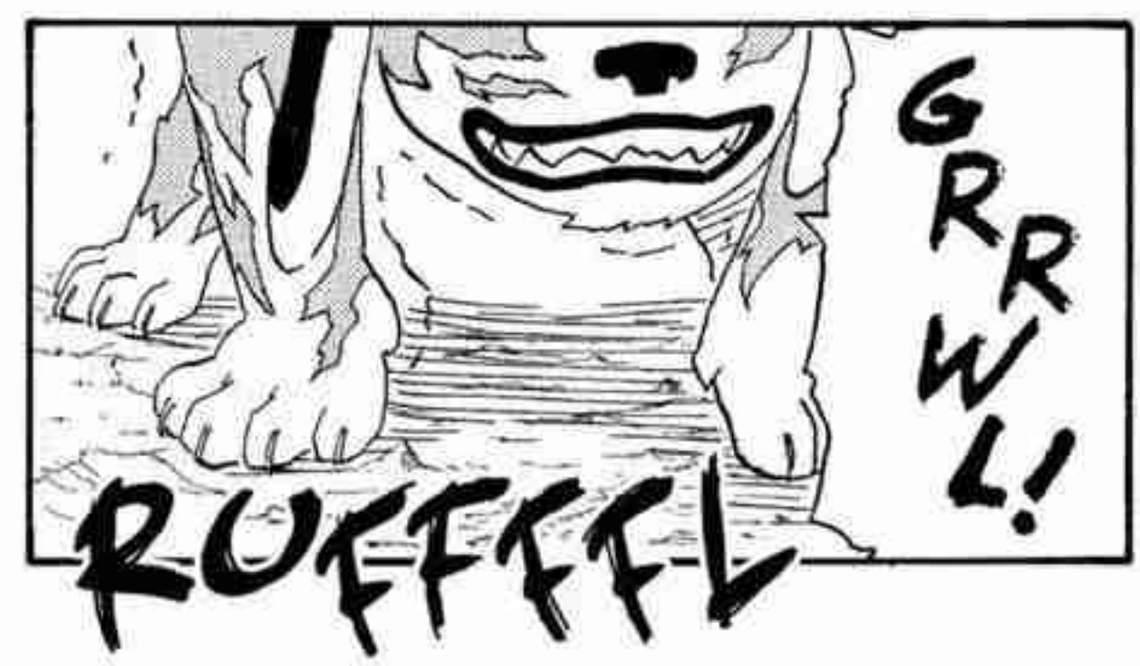
WINDING UP IN A MESS LIKE THIS...
IT WAS STUPID TO CHARGE IN BEFORE WE FIGURED OUT OUR ENEMIES' POWERS...

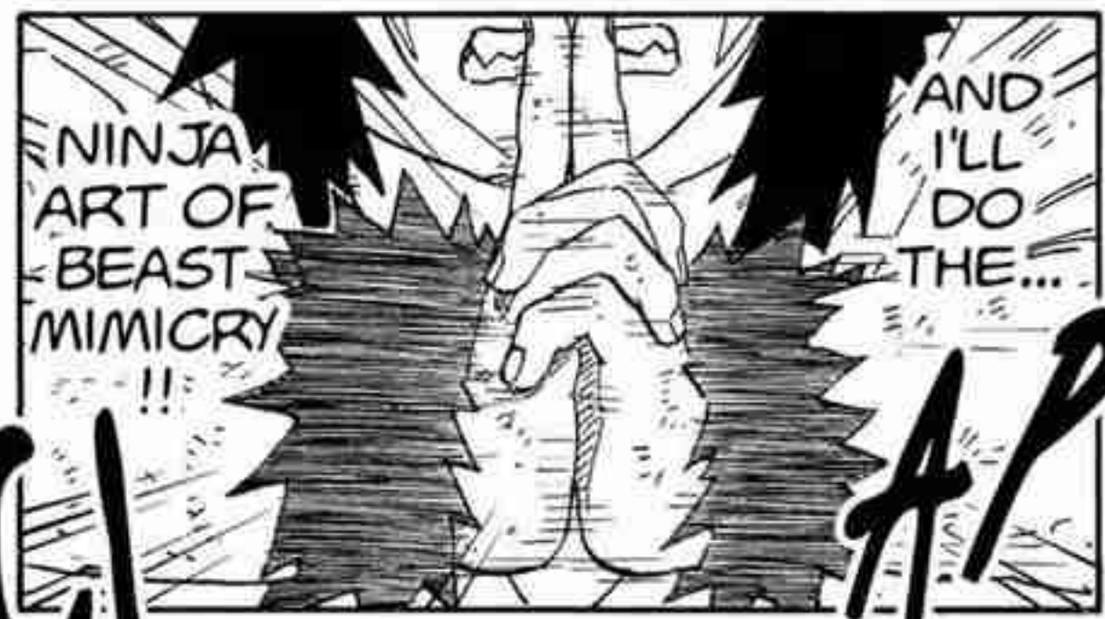
GRRT
WE'RE IN TROUBLE, SHIKA-MARU.

BEFORE OUR CHAKRA'S ALL GONE, I'M GONNA OPEN UP AN AIRSHAFT!

SST

DRAT! GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!





DONG

CLAP

SHAA

SKR

LIK

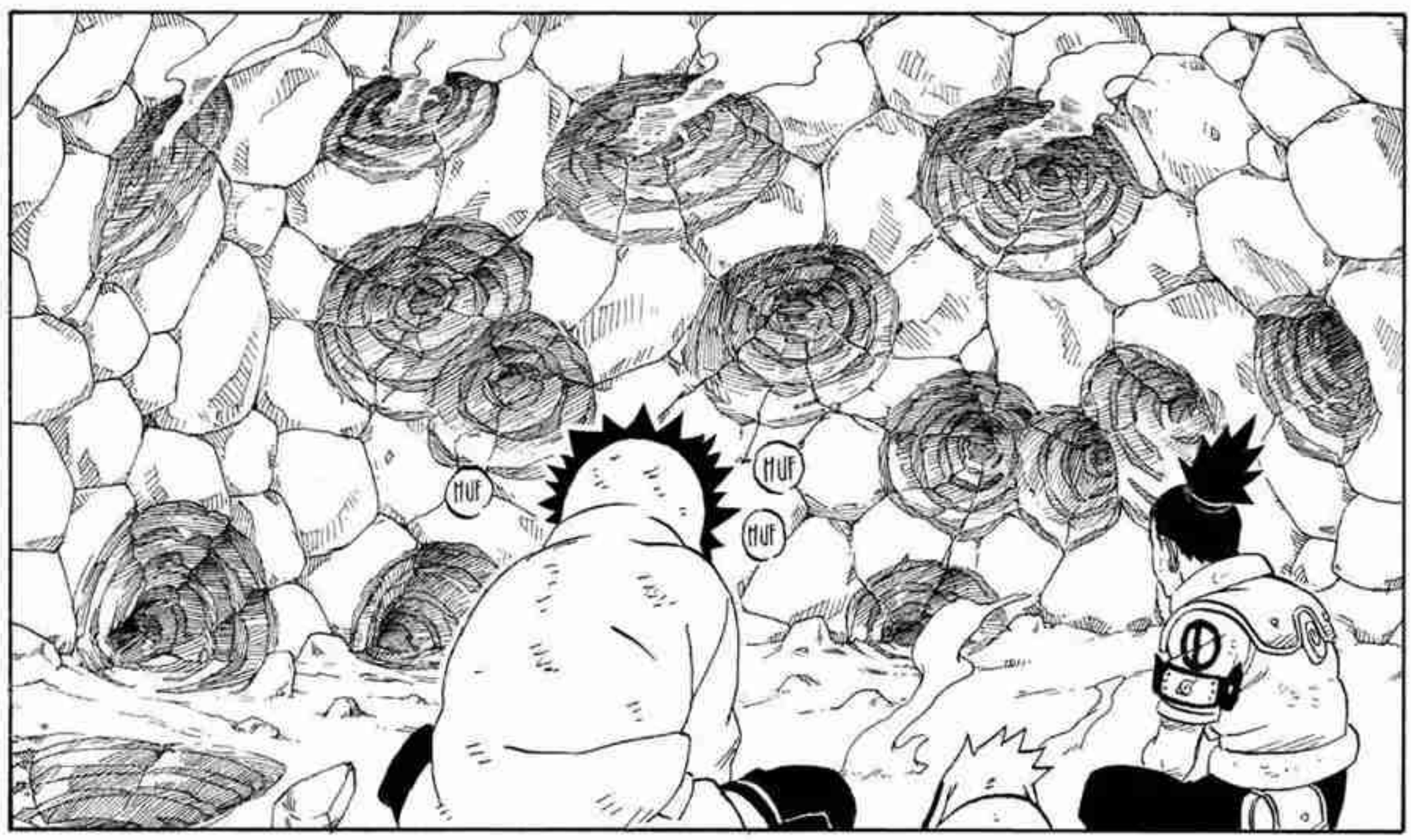
GATSUUGA!

SHRAK

FANG OVER FANG !!

WHINE...
NG

FUMP FUMP FUMP
IT'S NO USE, YOU KNOW ...


HUF
HUF
HUF

...!

EVERY DENT WE MAKE GETS RESTORED!
ARGH!
INCLUDING THE GROUND.

SHKK

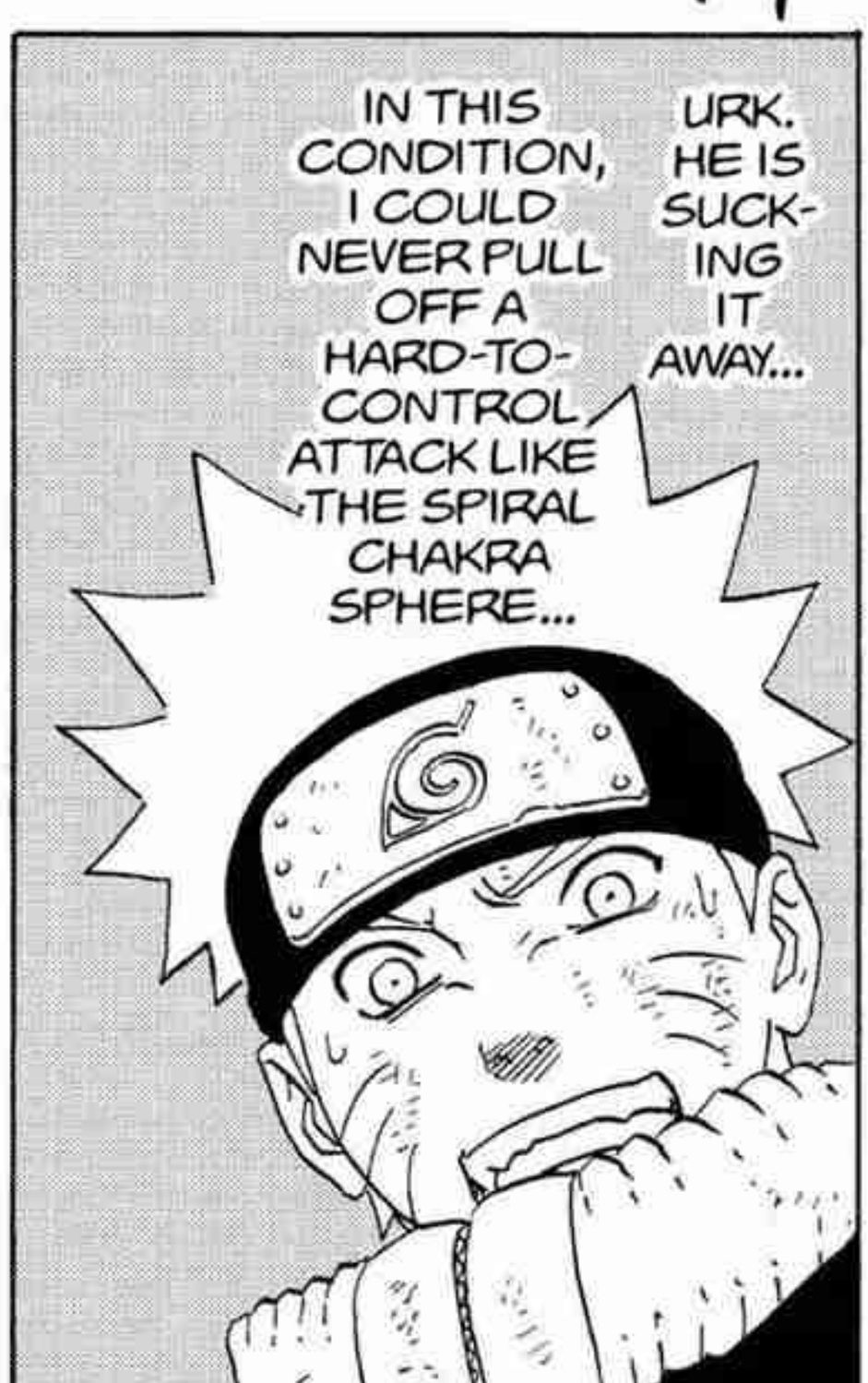
SKRUKK...

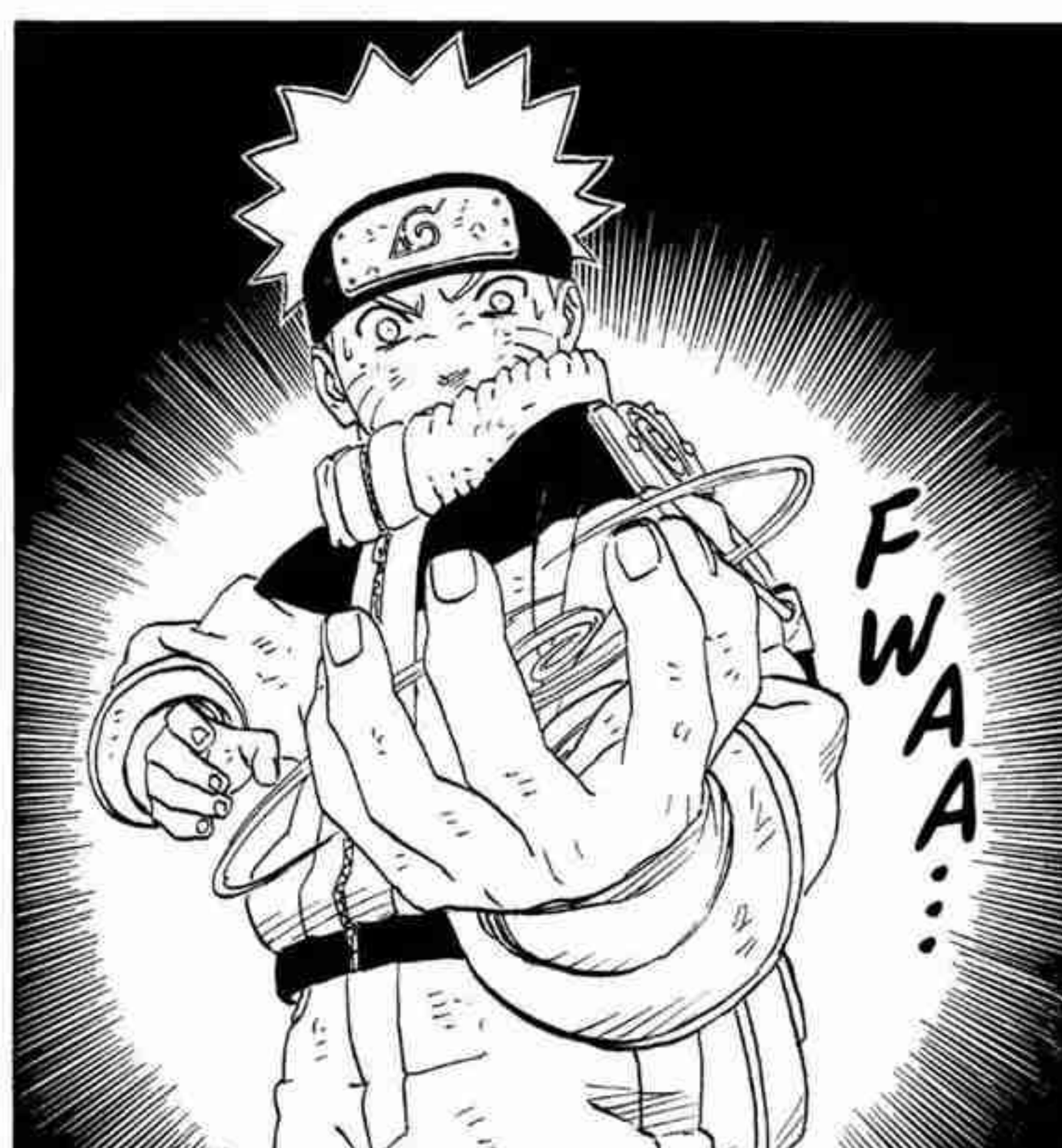
...

SKRIK...

FWIP
RASEN-GAN! SPIRAL CHAKRA SPHERE !!
FWIP

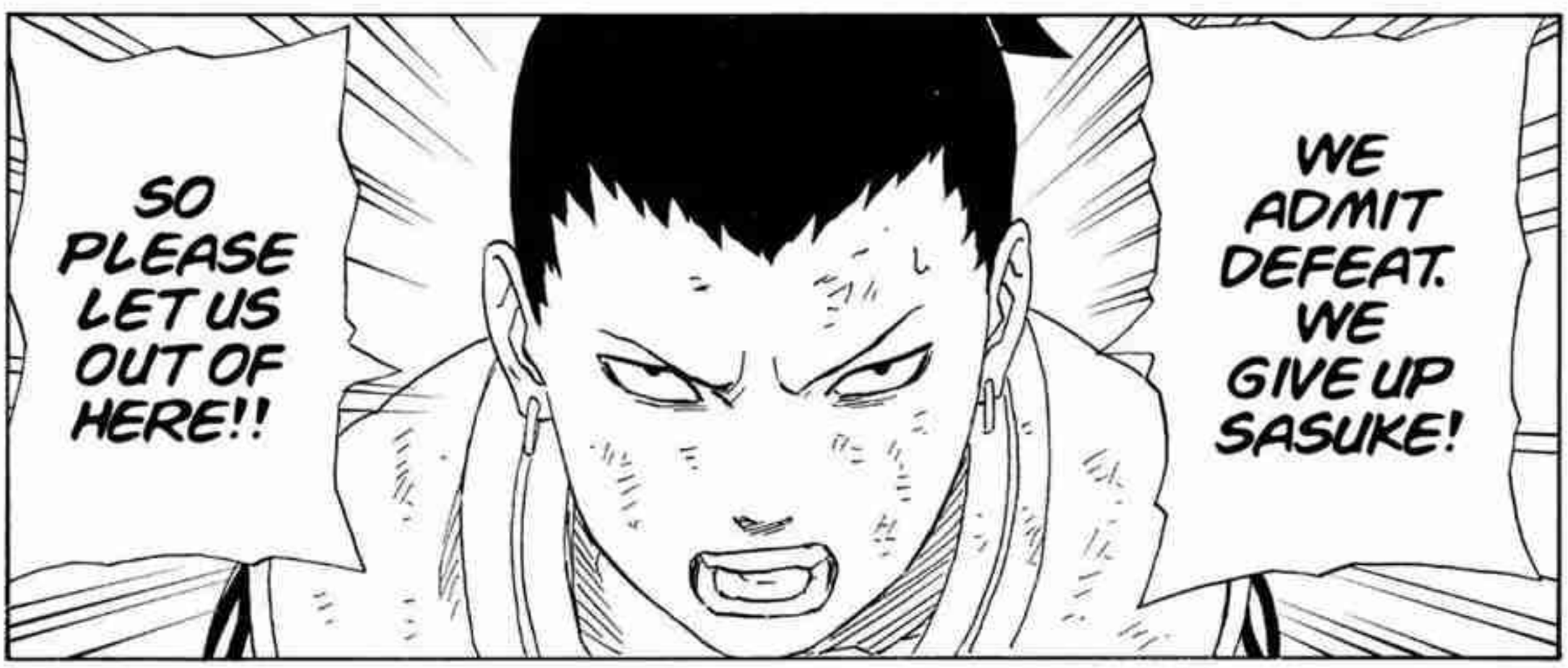
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, WE WON'T LAST TEN MINUTES. WHEN OUR CHAKRA'S GONE...
HUF
HUF


IN THIS CONDITION, I COULD NEVER PULL OFF A HARD-TO-CONTROL ATTACK LIKE THE SPIRAL CHAKRA SPHERE...
URK. HE IS SUCK-ING IT AWAY...


FWAA...

I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOUR LEADER!!
HEY, LISTEN!
!
!

...


SO PLEASE LET US OUT OF HERE!!
WE ADMIT DEFEAT. WE GIVE UP SASUKE!

HEH... WHAT FUN. BUT YOU'RE MY MEAL. I CAN'T LET YOU OUT.
IN-FIGHTING?

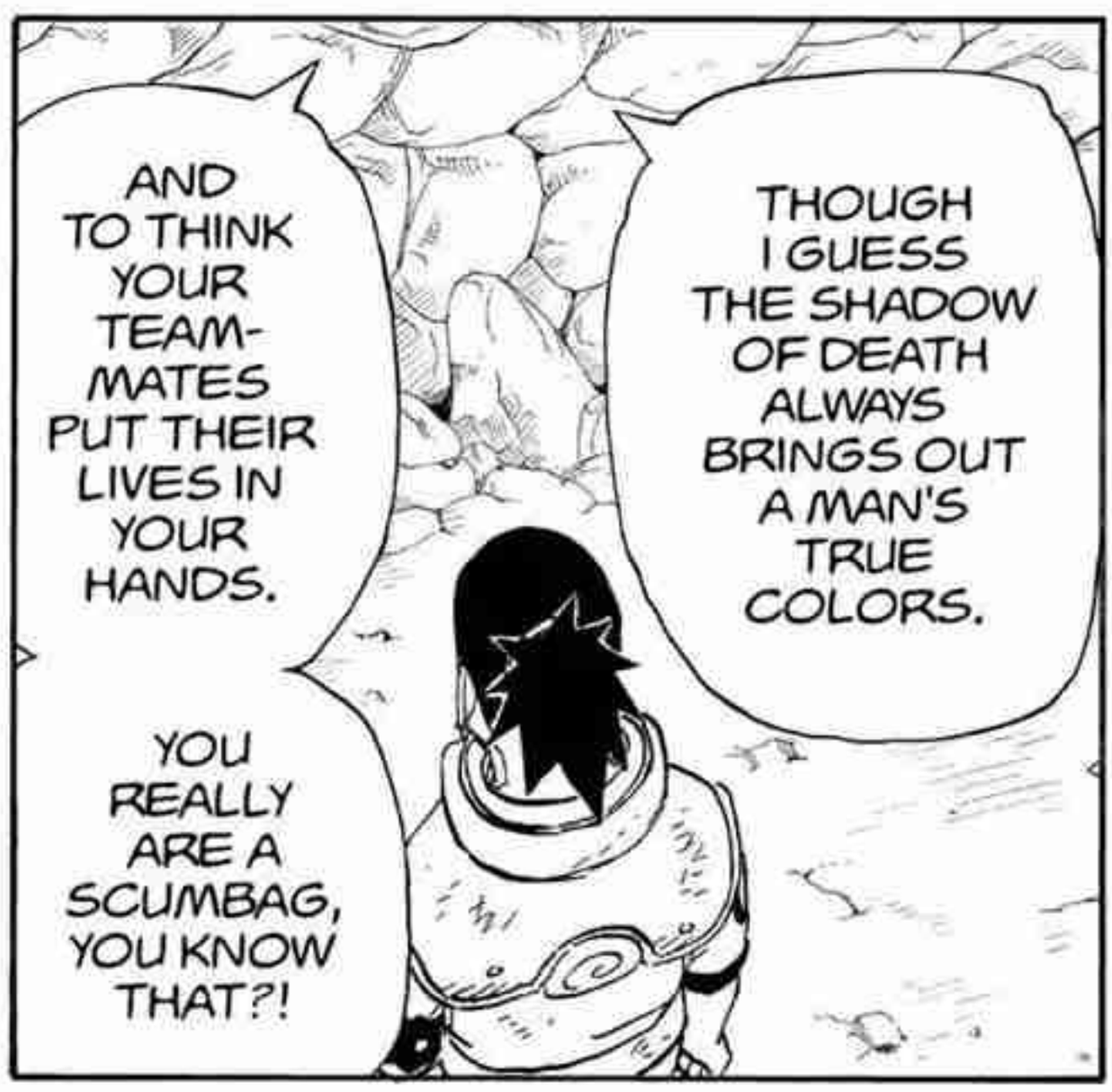
SHIKAMARU... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
HEY...

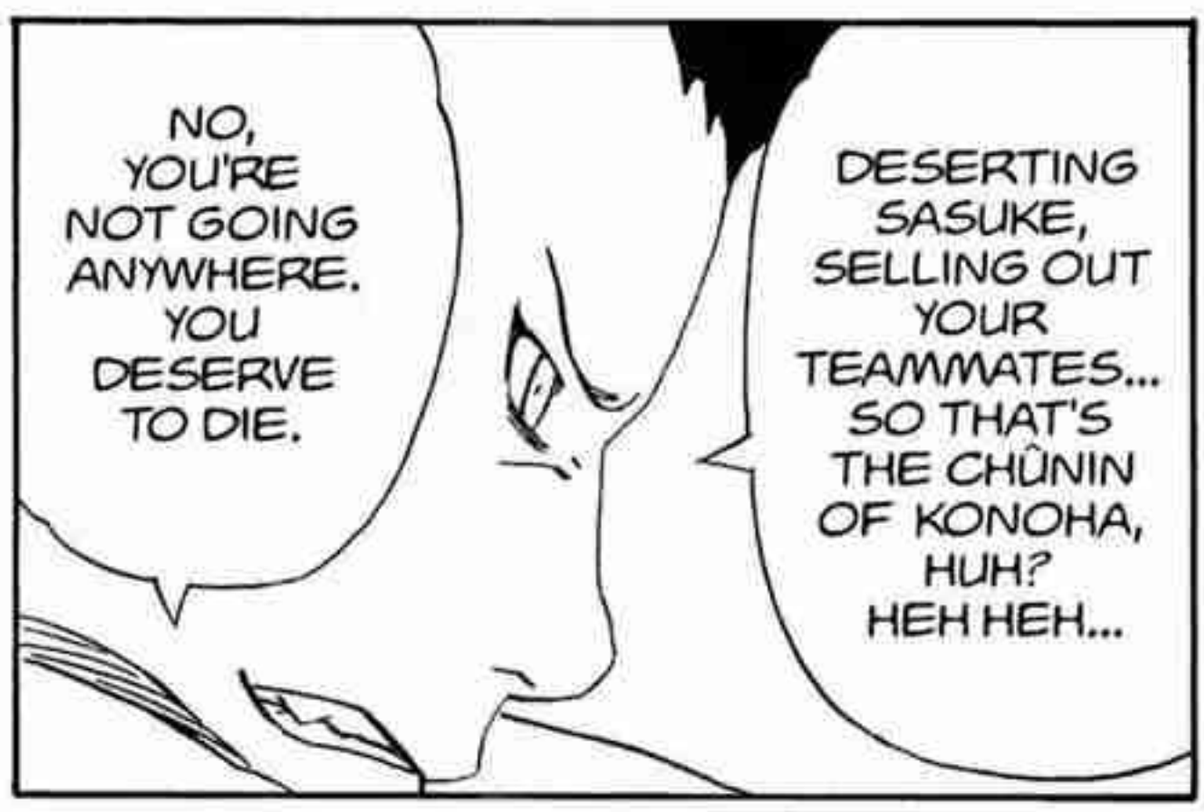
JUST LET ME OUT. ME ALONE.

I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING. IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

THEN... NEVER MIND THE REST...

SNAPP


AND TO THINK YOUR TEAM-MATES PUT THEIR LIVES IN YOUR HANDS.
YOU REALLY ARE A SCUMBAG, YOU KNOW THAT?!
THOUGH I GUESS THE SHADOW OF DEATH ALWAYS BRINGS OUT A MAN'S TRUE COLORS.

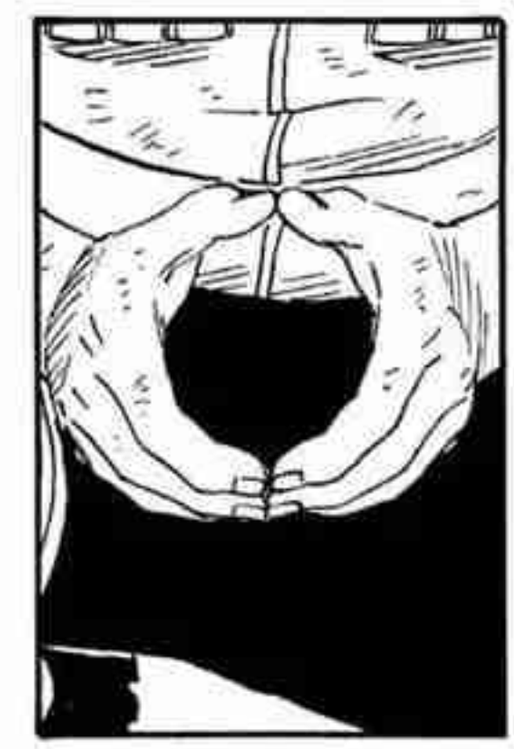

NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. YOU DESERVE TO DIE.
DESERTING SASUKE, SELLING OUT YOUR TEAMMATES... SO THAT'S THE CHÛNIN OF KONOHA, HUH? HEH HEH...

LET ME TELL YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

LOOK, YOU DUNCE, HE CAN'T GET OUT. THAT'S WHY HE'S BEGGING.
TO THINK I HAD FAITH IN YOU! I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN. GET OUT, SHIKAMARU!

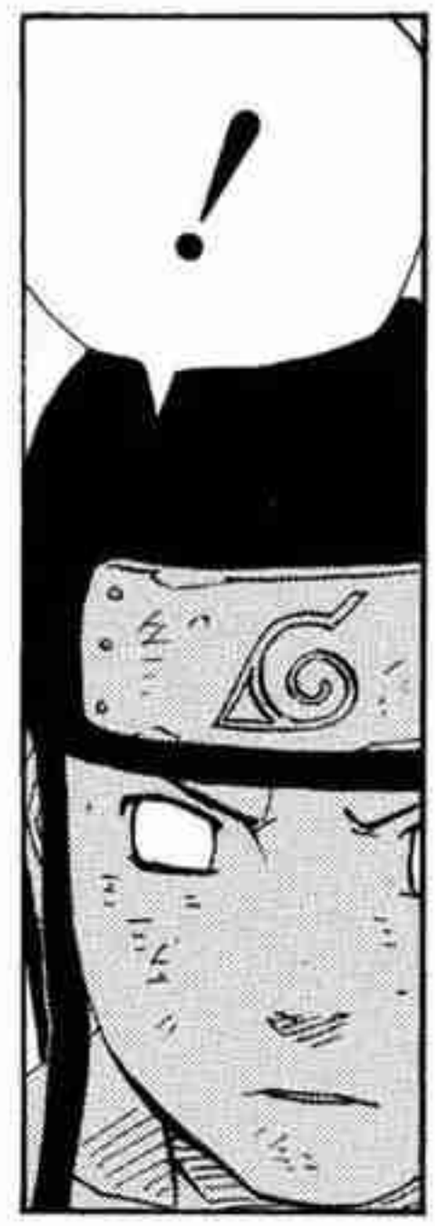
THERE-FORE I WILL STAKE MY LIFE TO RESCUE HIM. THAT'S THE KONOHA WAY.
BUT LIKE US, SASUKE IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHA-GAKURE. HE IS OUR COM-RADE!

SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU!



SO WHEN CHOJI LOSES HIS TEMPER, HE BINGES ON JUNK FOOD.
IS THIS REALLY THE BEST TIME FOR A SNACK?!
SHEESH... THERE'S ANOTHER USELESS ONE.
MUNCH MUNCH

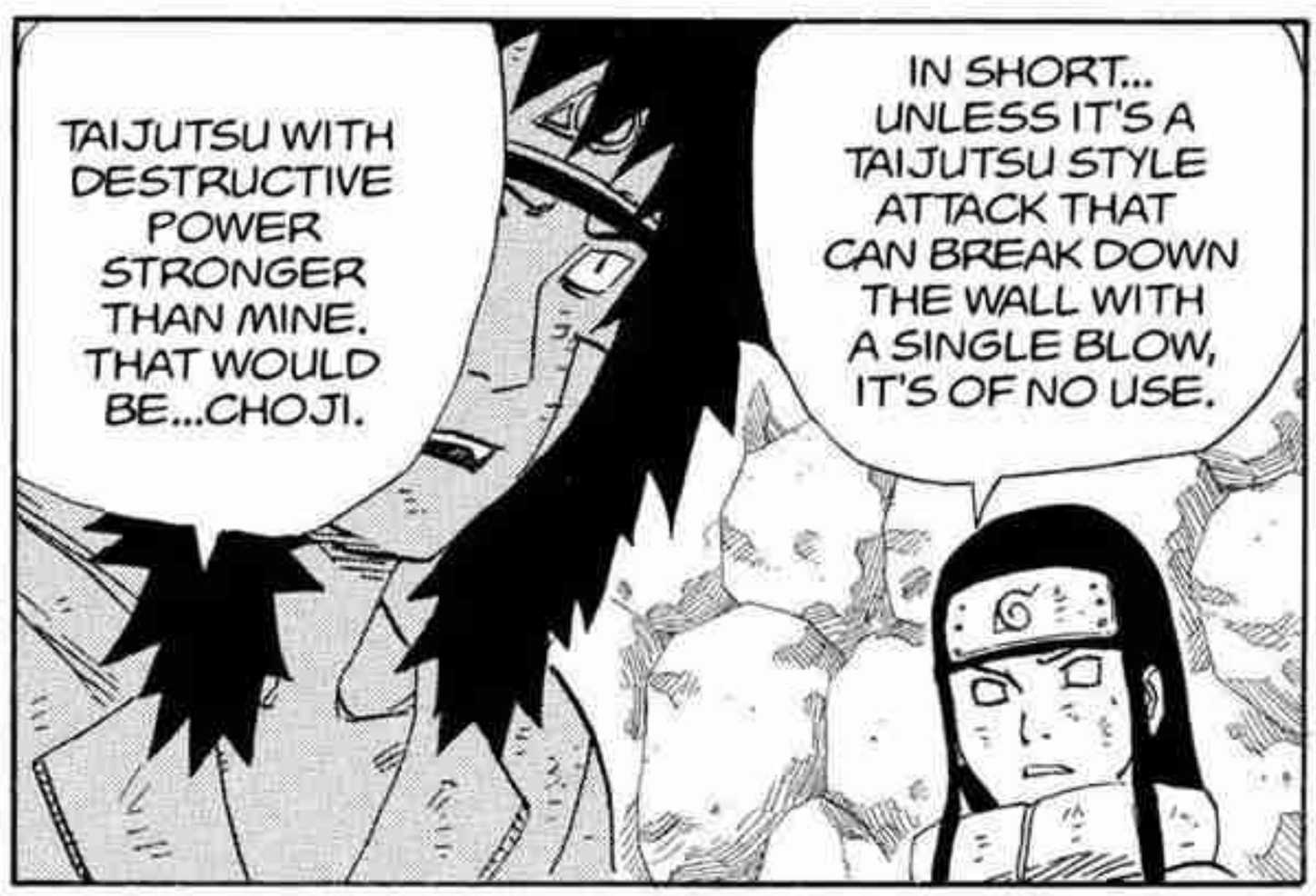
CHOMP
GRNCH
ポテート


!

THE WALL IS BRIMMING WITH CHAKRA. YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENS.
EVEN IF YOU DAMAGE IT A LITTLE, IT WILL REBUILD ITSELF IMMEDIATELY.
DON'T.

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE... I'M USING SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!

BUT... LOOK AT HIM.
MUNCH MUNCH


TAIJUTSU WITH DESTRUCTIVE POWER STRONGER THAN MINE. THAT WOULD BE...CHOJI.
IN SHORT... UNLESS IT'S A TAIJUTSU STYLE ATTACK THAT CAN BREAK DOWN THE WALL WITH A SINGLE BLOW, IT'S OF NO USE.

SNAP

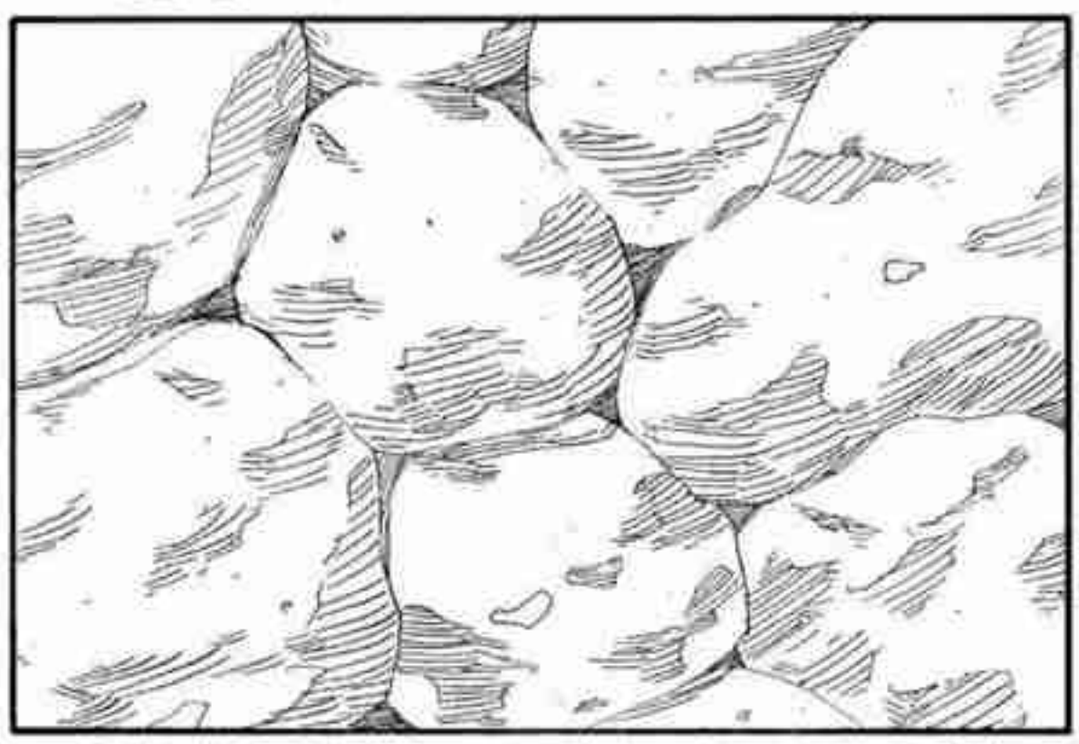
REMEMBER WHAT SHIKAMARU SAID WHEN HE PULLED US TOGETHER!!
NARUTO! YOU REALLY ARE CLUELESS, AREN'T YOU!

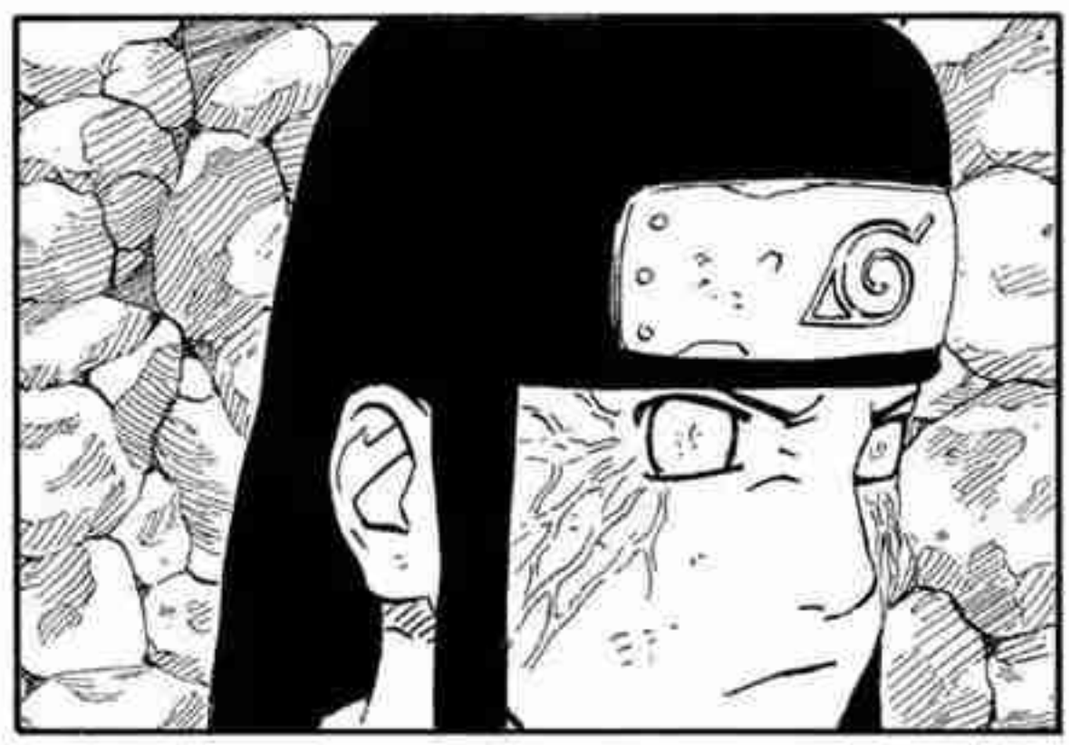
SURE...
NEJI...DO YOU MIND USING THE REST OF YOUR CHAKRA TO OBSERVE THE SPOT ON THE WALL BEHIND YOU AND CHOJI?
OH CLAM IT, SHIKA-MARU!!
SST

CHOJI, DON'T SPEAK OUT LOUD FROM HERE ON.

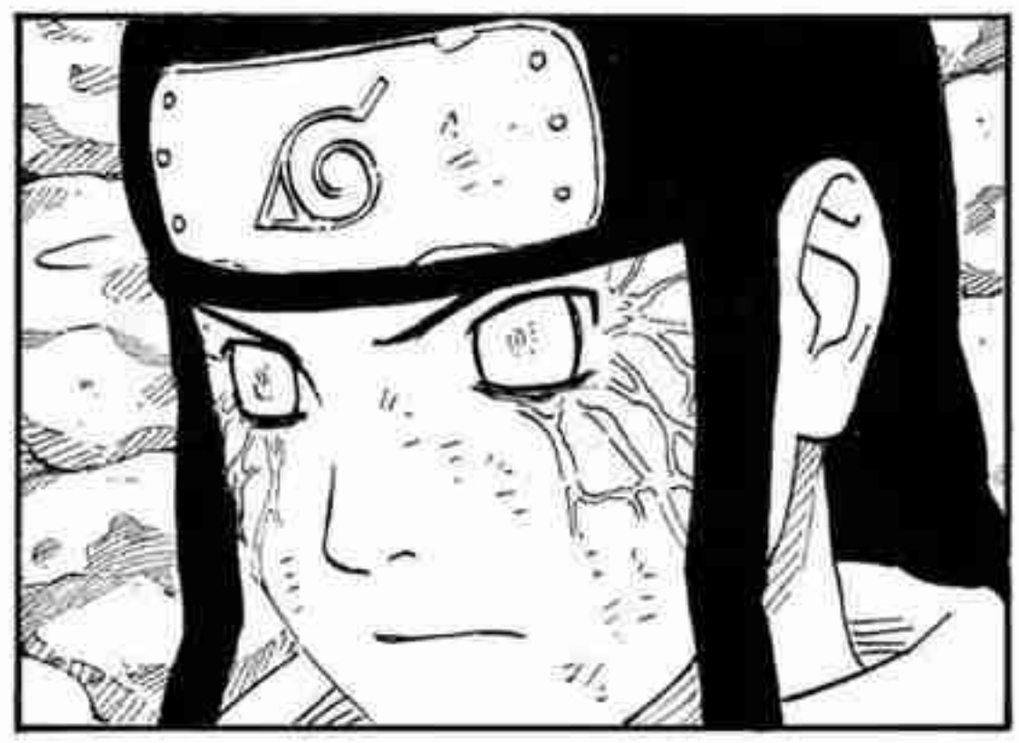
...WHEN ALL YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ME.
BEYOND THAT, EVEN I CAN'T COM-PLAIN...

!





SKRIK
SKRUKK...



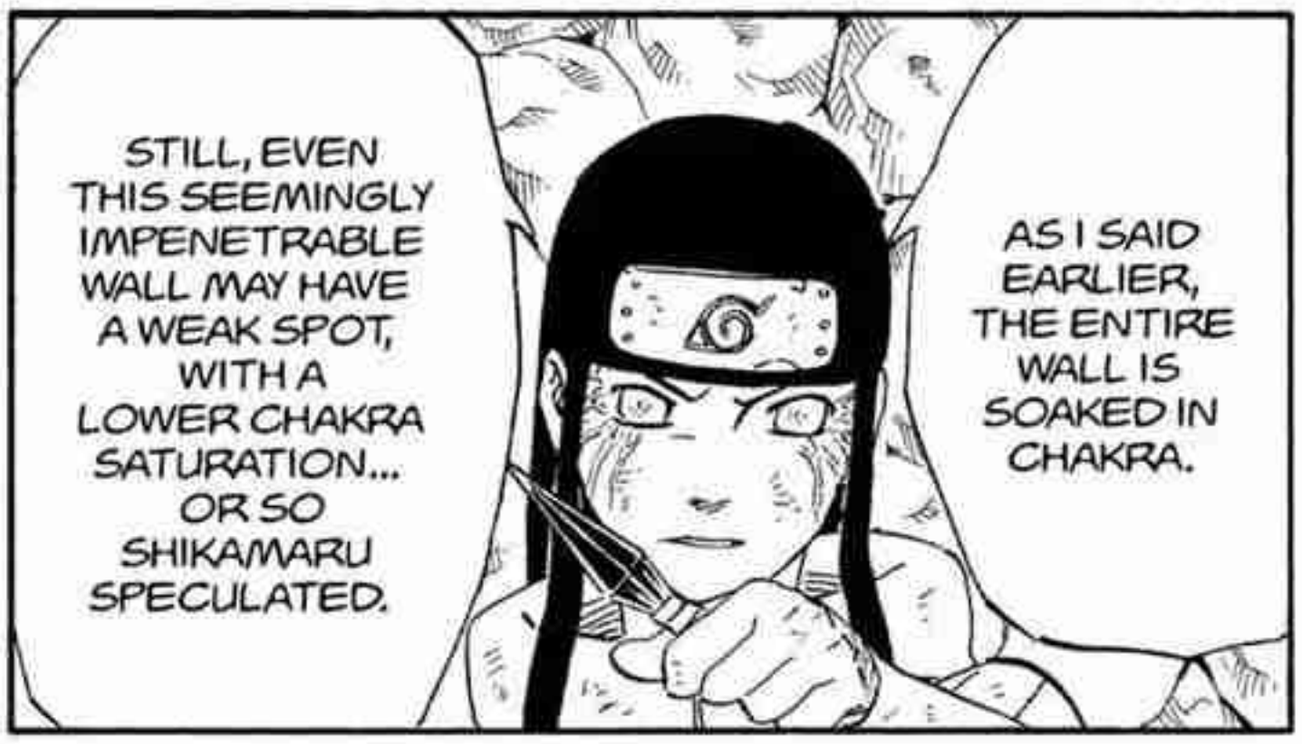
THERE'S THE SPOT.
HRM. I SEE...

TOTALLY! GIVE ME THE WORD!
CHOJI, YOU READY?!
NEJI, USE A KUNAI KNIFE.

?
?

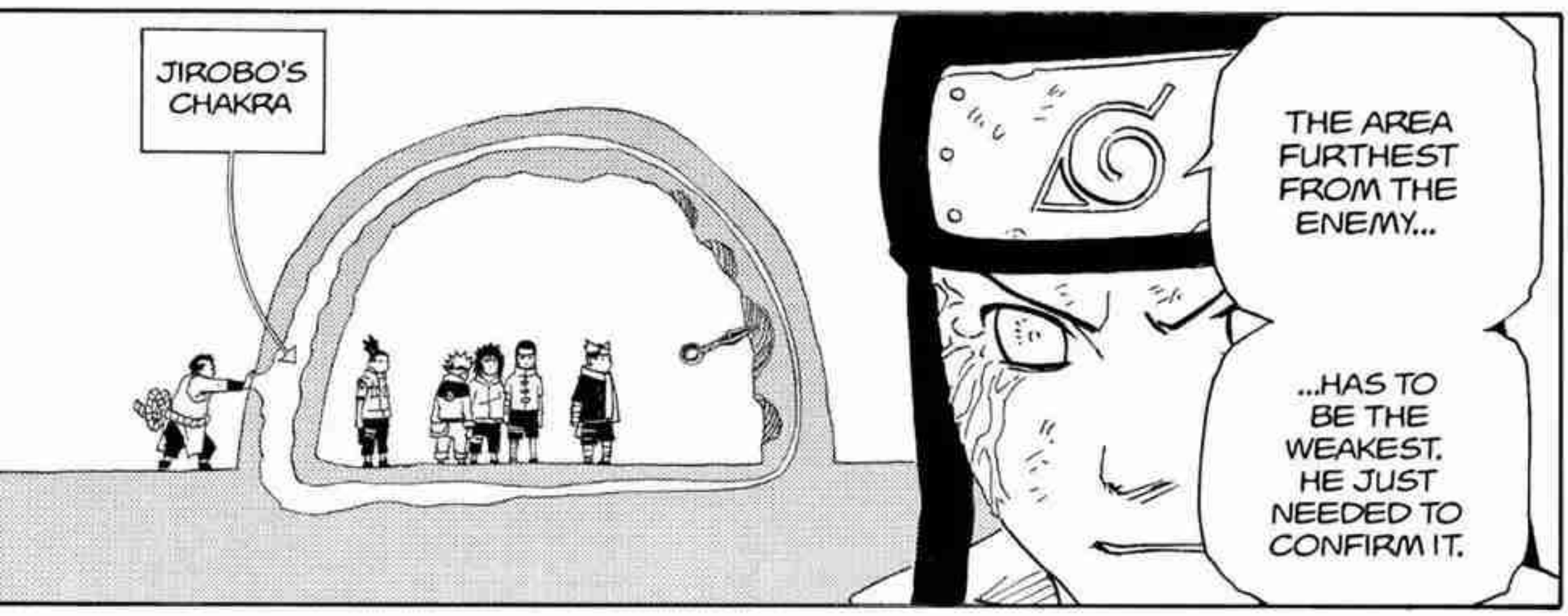
BOOM

BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPANSION!!



FURTHERMORE, BY SKILLFULLY DRAWING OUT A CONVERSATION, SHIKAMARU MANAGED TO DETERMINE THE ENEMY'S POSITION.
THE THEORY BEING...

SLOWER TO RECOVER MEANS A LOWER SATURATION OF CHAKRA.
TU KK


JIROBO'S CHAKRA
THE AREA FURTHEST FROM THE ENEMY...
...HAS TO BE THE WEAKEST. HE JUST NEEDED TO CONFIRM IT.

OKAY! LET'S DO IT!

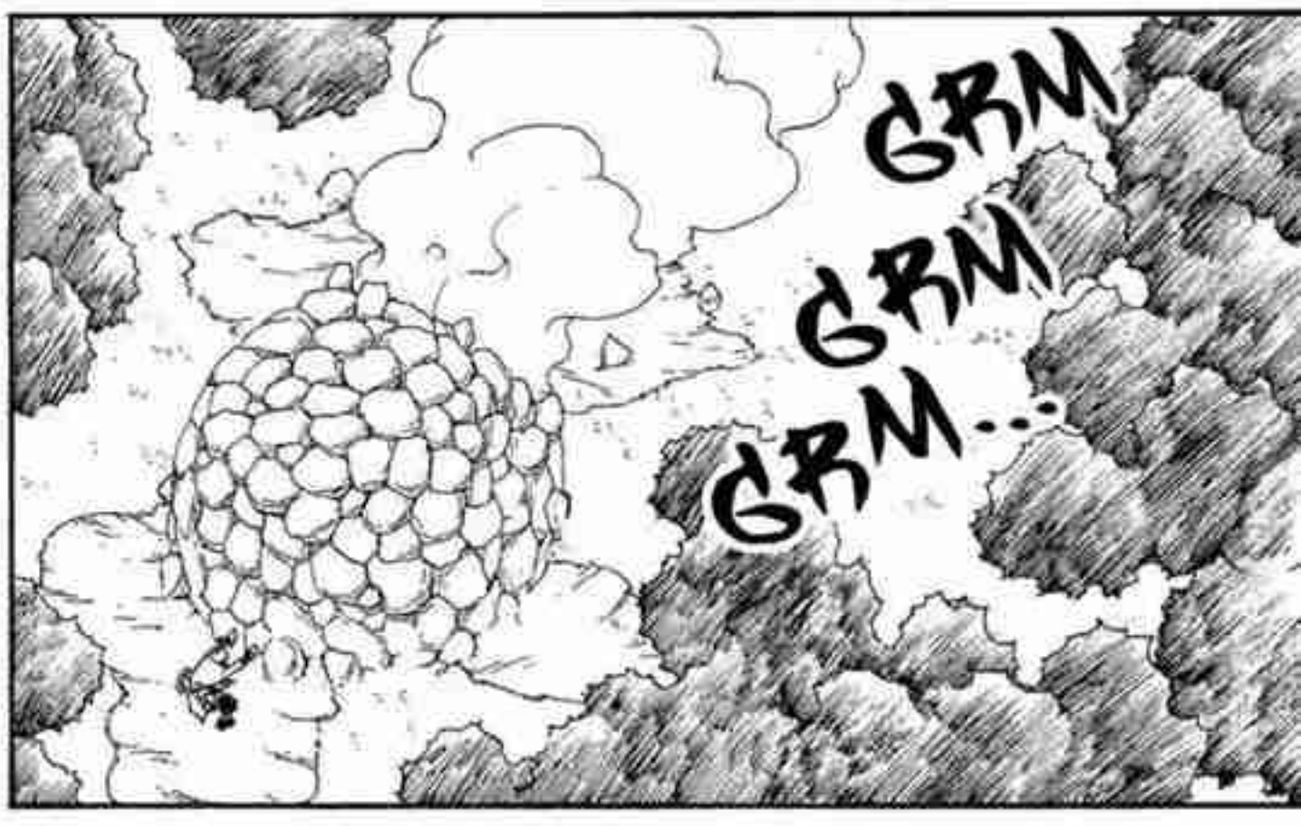
WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT HE WAS DOING.
AHA. SO IF YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR FRIENDS, YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR ENEMY, HUH?

HE MUST HAVE BEEN CHOWING DOWN TO REPLENISH HIS CHAKRA...
CHOJI UNDER-STOOD THE PLAN FROM THE START...

SKRUNCH

NIKUDAN SENSHA! THE HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!!

NCH



WHAT ?!

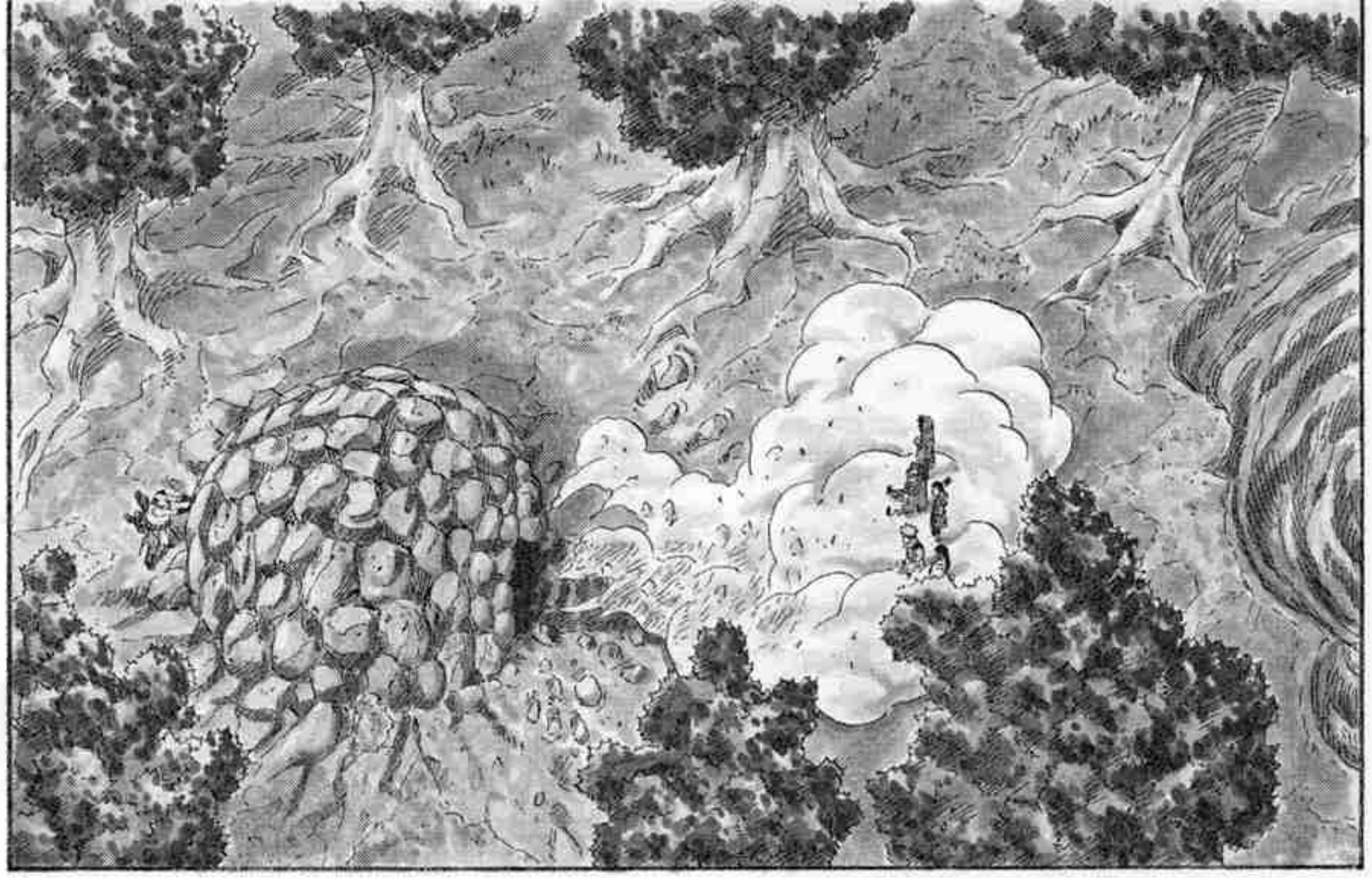
!!

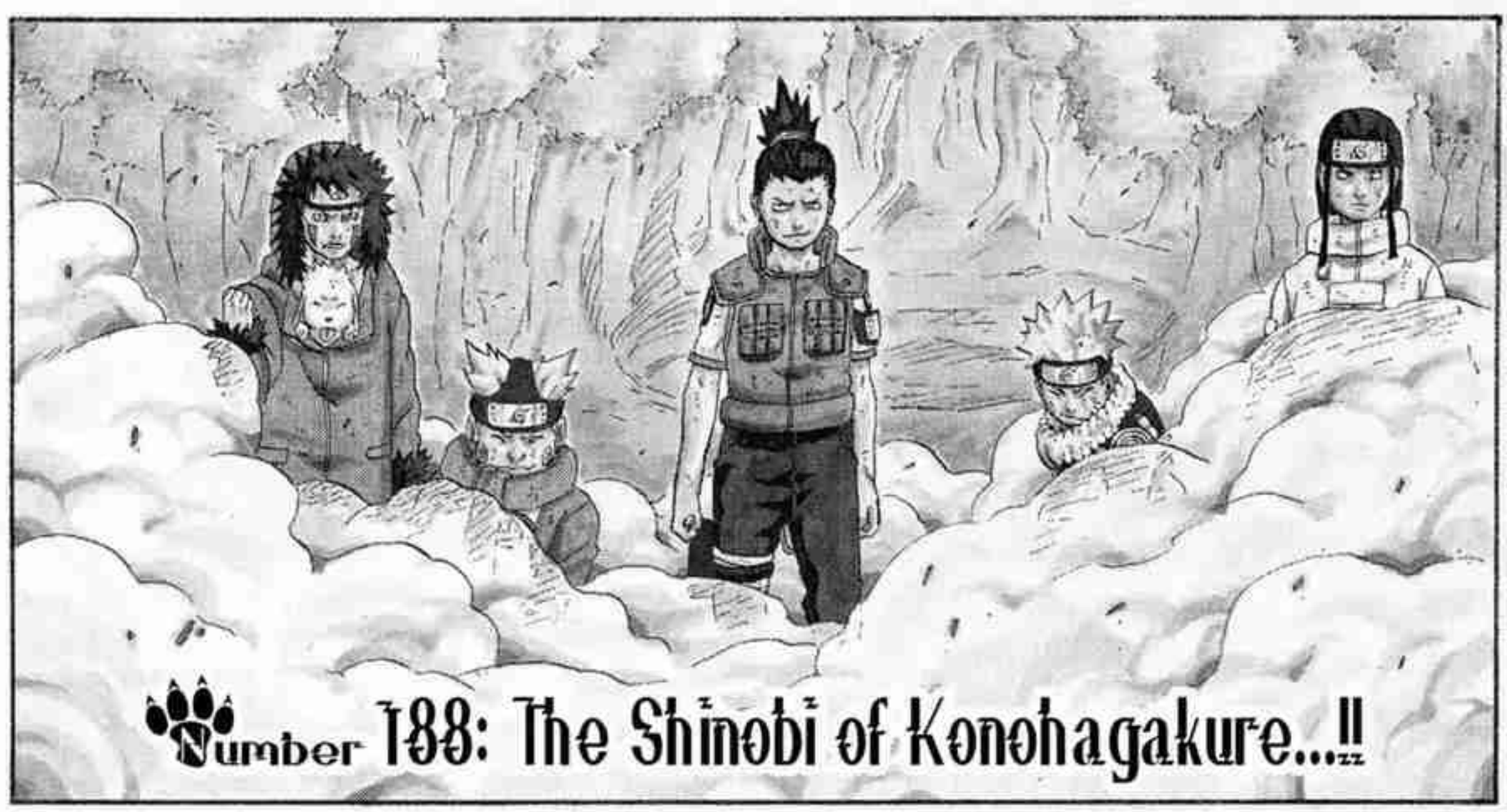
SKRRNCH

SKRRN

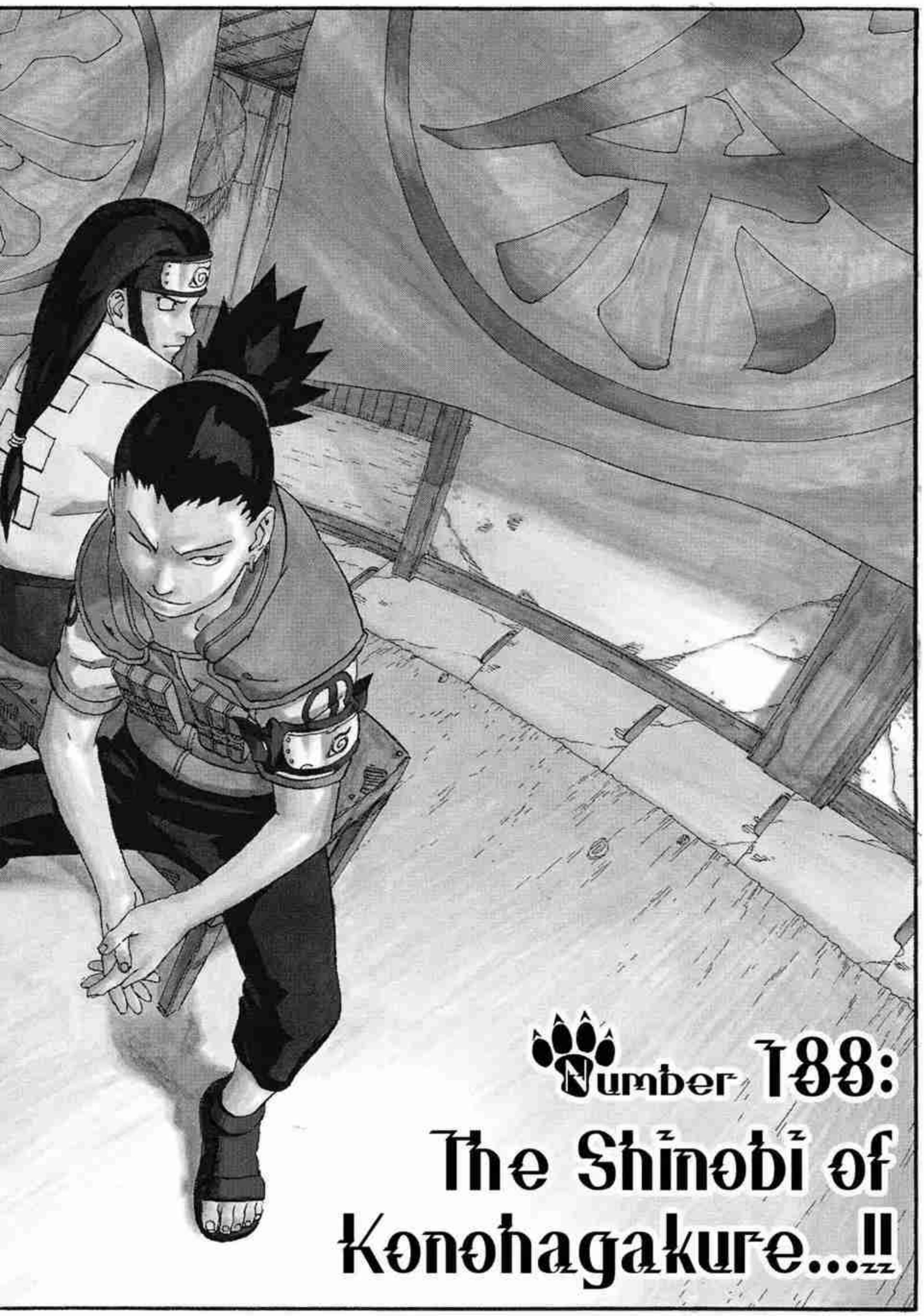
YOU'RE AWE-SOME.

HEH HEH.





Number 188: The Shinobi of Konohagakure...!!



Number 188: The Shinobi of Konohagakure...!!

NARUTO

WHINE...
NG

SO YOU BROKE FREE OF MY BARRIER NINJUTSU.

URK...

!

MMGH

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, KIDS.

HOLD IT!!

SHWIT

NOW THAT WE'RE OUT, WE'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND!

!

ME! LET ME HAVE HIM!!

!

!

SKKT

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, OUR POWER WILL BE USELESS ON ITS OWN.
IF WE TAKE TOO LONG, SASUKE WILL CROSS THE BORDER.

IT'S RISKY TO FIGHT HIM HEAD-ON RIGHT NOW.
WE MAY BE FIVE-ON-ONE, BUT WITH OUR CHAKRA DRAINED HE CAN DRAW OUT THE BATTLE FOR A WHILE.

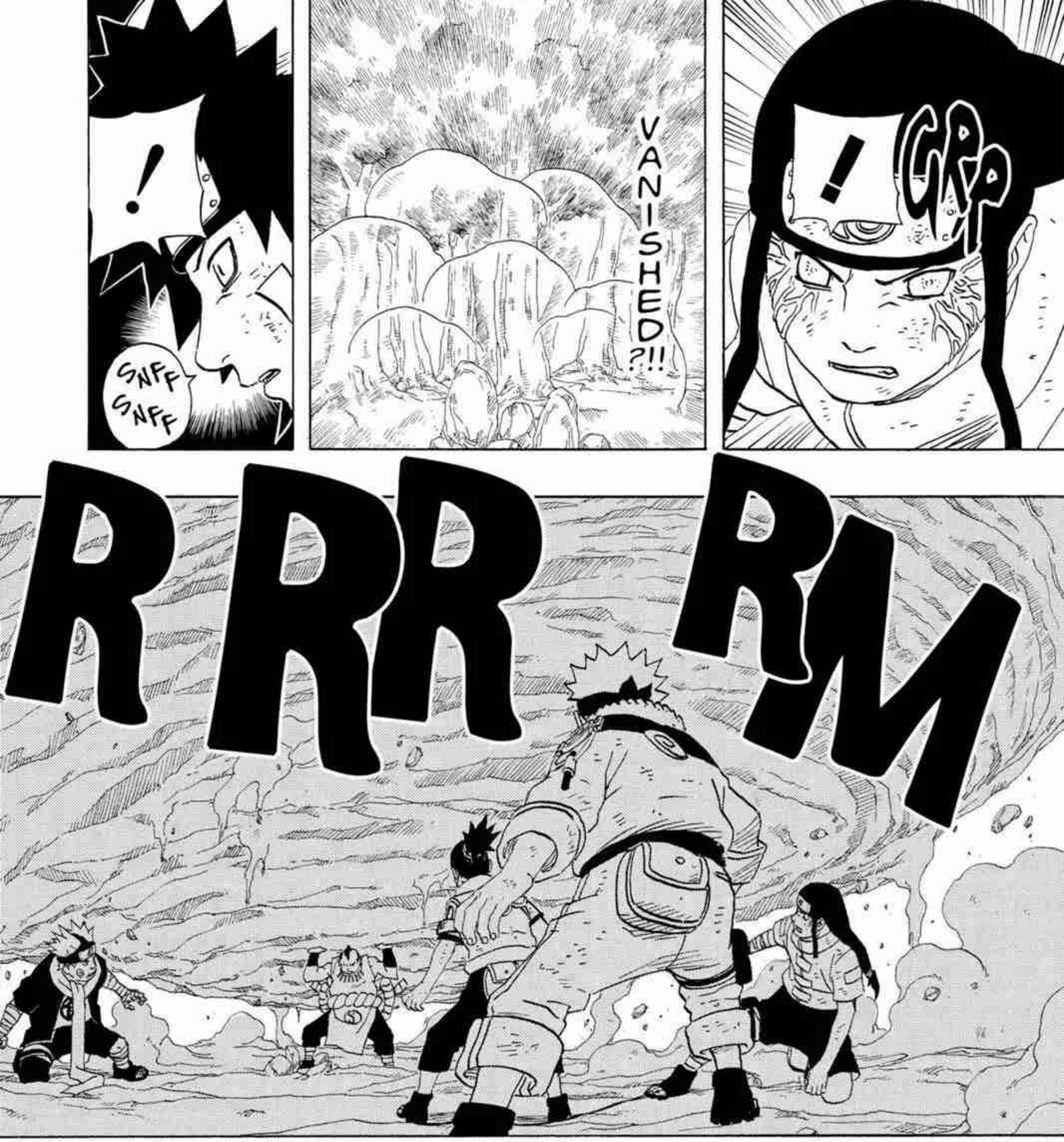
...

SO WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

...

WE CAN BEAT HIM!
WE BROKE HIS BARRIER.
WHUMP

WHA
WELL, MORE LIKE A HALF-DECENT APPETIZER. BUT ANYWAY.
WRONG, SMARTY-PANTS... YOU'RE MY MEAL, IS WHAT YOU ARE!
CLA AP
WE'RE IN FOR SOME-THING BIG!!
LOOK OUT, GUYS!
SKRRRNCH
WUGGA
!!
UGH!!
WUMP
FWOOF


!
SNFF SNFF
VANISHED?!!
!
RRRRM

FWP

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

BEHIND YOU!!

!

!

!

!

GNAAK

GRUMMRUMM GRUM

GRR

EARTH STYLE! BALL OF GRAVES !!

FWOO

HYAAA !!

BOOM
WHUAAAA!!
WOOM
SKRRNCH
NIKUDAN SENSHA! THE HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!

!
CHOJI!
WHOA!
KA-KA-NN-CH-RR-NN-CH
!
SKRRT...
MMF-F

UNGH ...
SMIRK
UGH!!
SHÔ-SHITSU! KNEE SLAM!!
PWN
NK
UGAH!
TOKKEN! SHOULDER CHARGE!!
WO

SKRUNCHH ONG

FW IP

YOU BIG JERK!!

SHHK

SHOW-ING OFF, ARE WE?!

SHA A

SSP

GLO M

GUYS, HOLD IT!!

YOU TAKE KIBA AND CHOJI, AND TRACK SASUKE.
NEJI, I'M MAKING YOU SECOND IN COMMAND.

THE WAY THIS IS GOING, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO SASUKE.
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. LET'S SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS...
SST

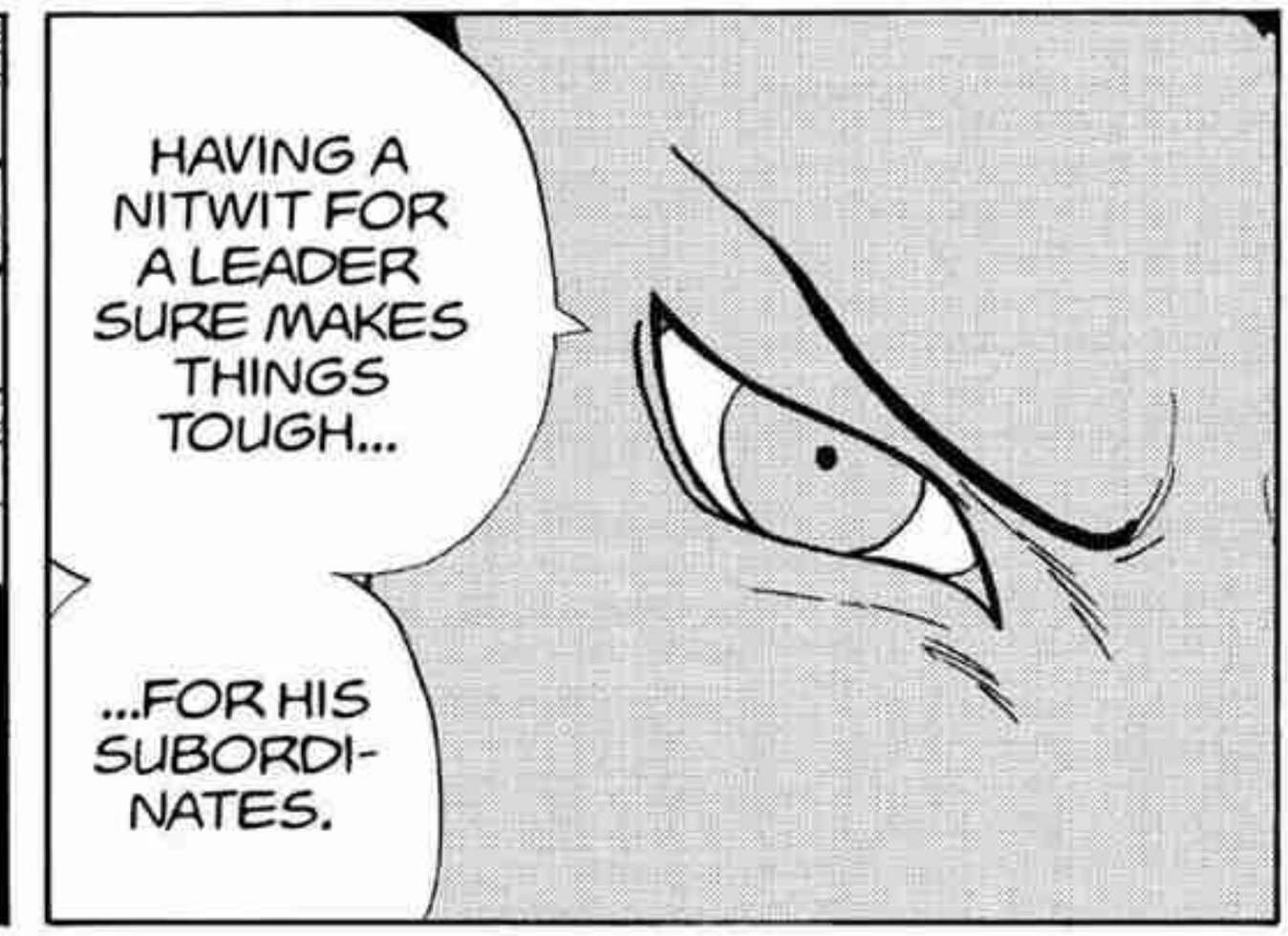
AS FOR THIS GUY, NARUTO AND I WILL MANAGE!
SHFF

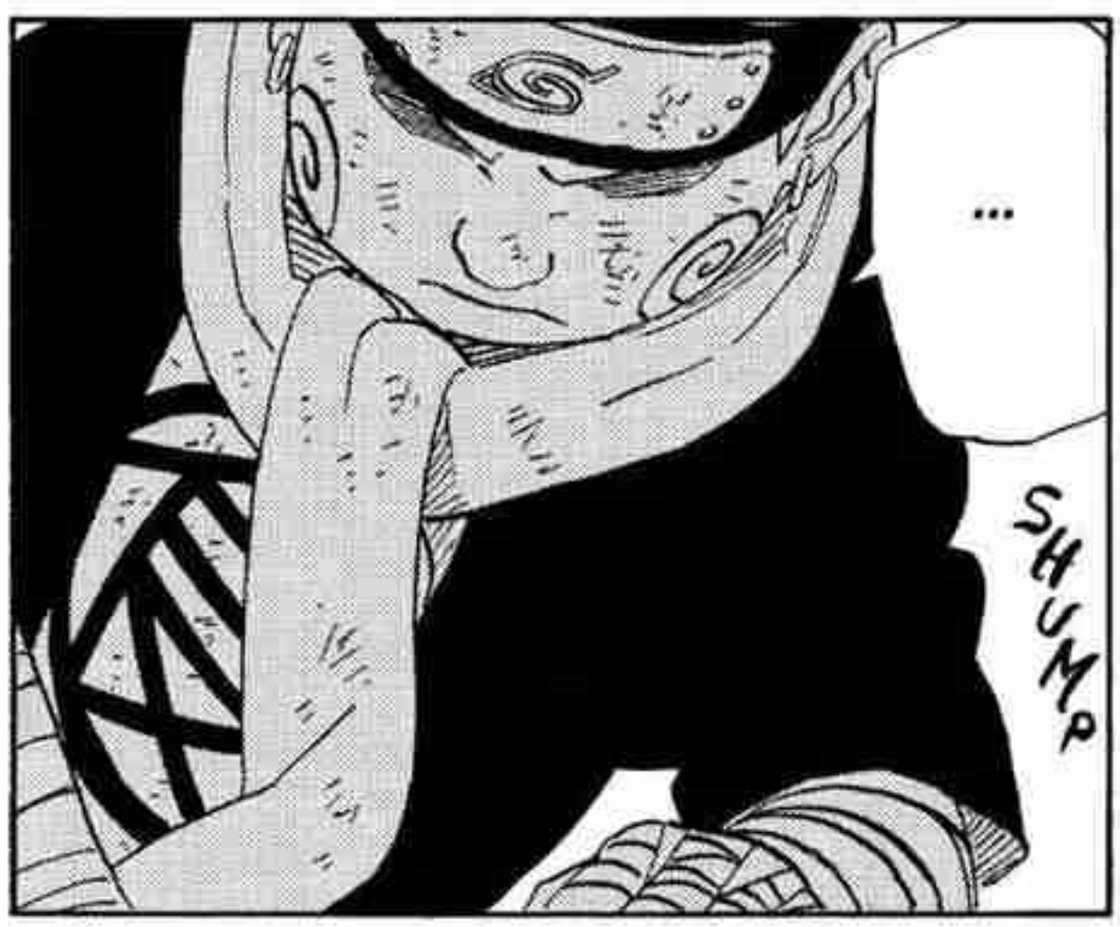
KAGESHIBARI NO JUTSU! SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE!! AGAIN?

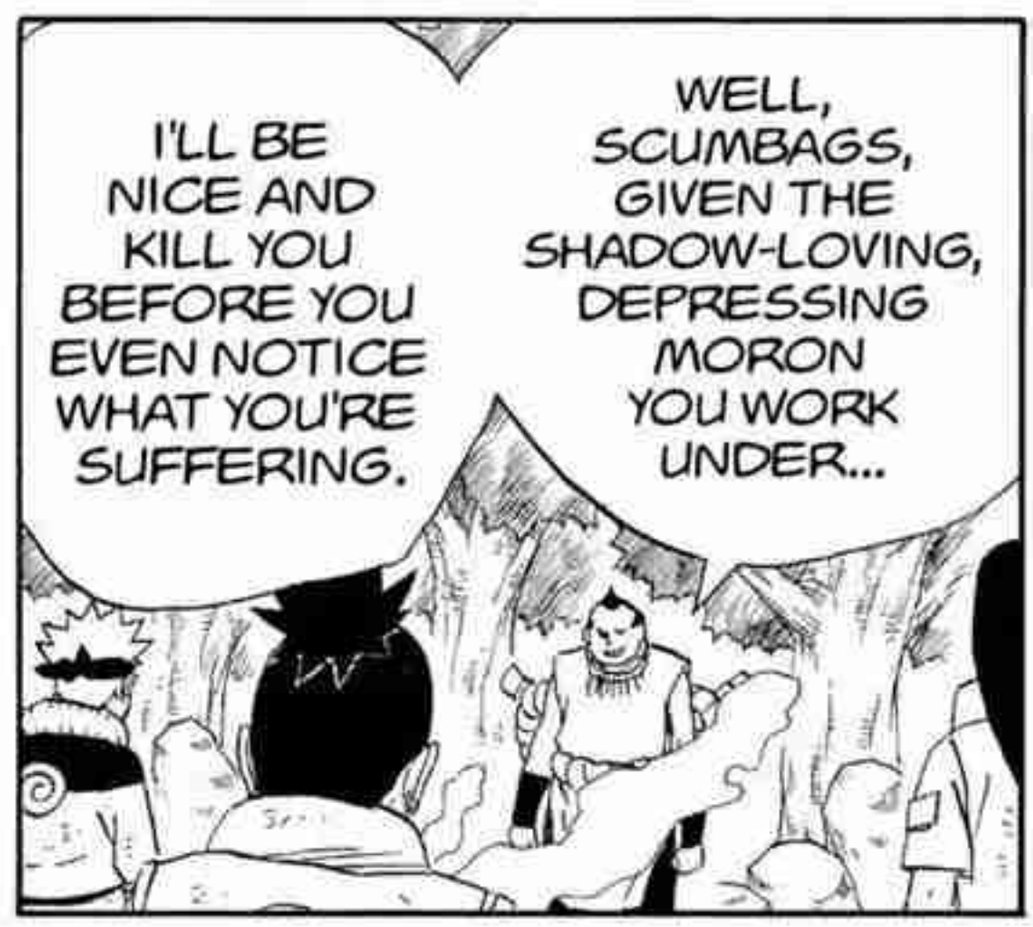
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK SPLITTING UP PUTS YOU IN A BETTER POSITION?
HEH... AND YOU'RE THE SQUAD LEADER, RIGHT?

IT'S A USELESS TECHNIQUE. IT'S NO BETTER THAN A CHEAP STAGE TRICK.

TWIK


HAVING A NITWIT FOR A LEADER SURE MAKES THINGS TOUGH...
...FOR HIS SUBORDI-NATES.


...
SHUMP

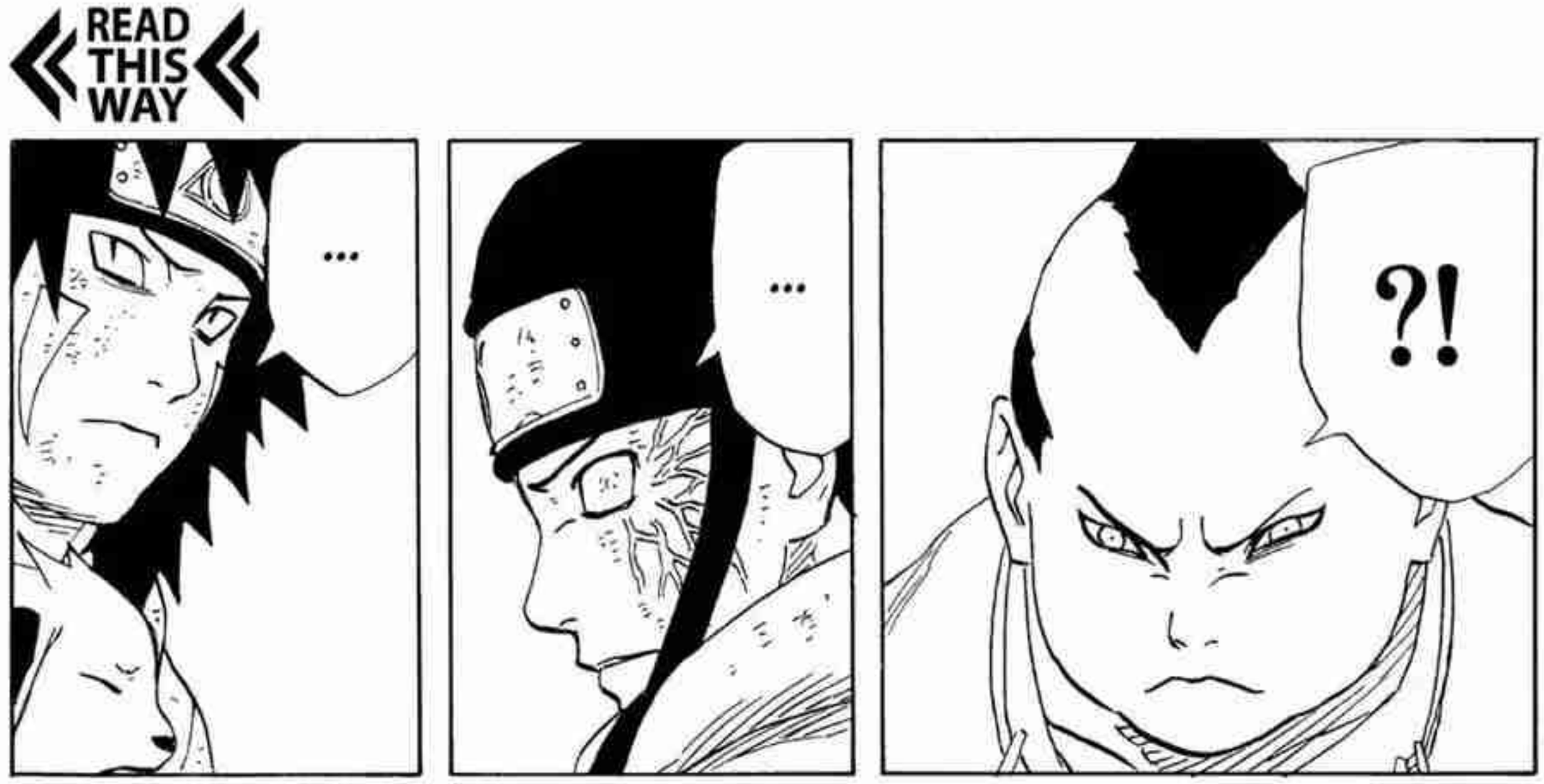

I'LL BE NICE AND KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICE WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING.
WELL, SCUMBAGS, GIVEN THE SHADOW-LOVING, DEPRESSING MORON YOU WORK UNDER...

!

HE'S MINE!

I'LL KICK YOUR...
YOU PIG! SHUT YOUR FILTHY TRAP!

...!
CHOJI...
I'LL TAKE HIM!!!


READ THIS WAY
...
...
?!

!
SHIKAMARU... DIVIDE UP THESE MILITARY RATIONS PELLETS, AND RAISE YOUR CHAKRA.
SST
SHFF SHFF

YEAH, EXACTLY.
I'VE GOT MY SPECIAL RESERVE...
YOU DON'T MEAN ...
WAIT, CHOJI. YOU...

CHOJI...

GO ON, SHIKAMARU! TAKE EVERYONE AND GET OUT OF HERE!!

BUT LOOK, THAT'S...

IF WE LOSE SASUKE NOW, WE'LL BE JUST WHAT HE SAID WE ARE.

WHY IS IT WE BANDED TOGETHER ?!

ARE YOU NUTS?!

YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS GUY ON BY YOURSELF!

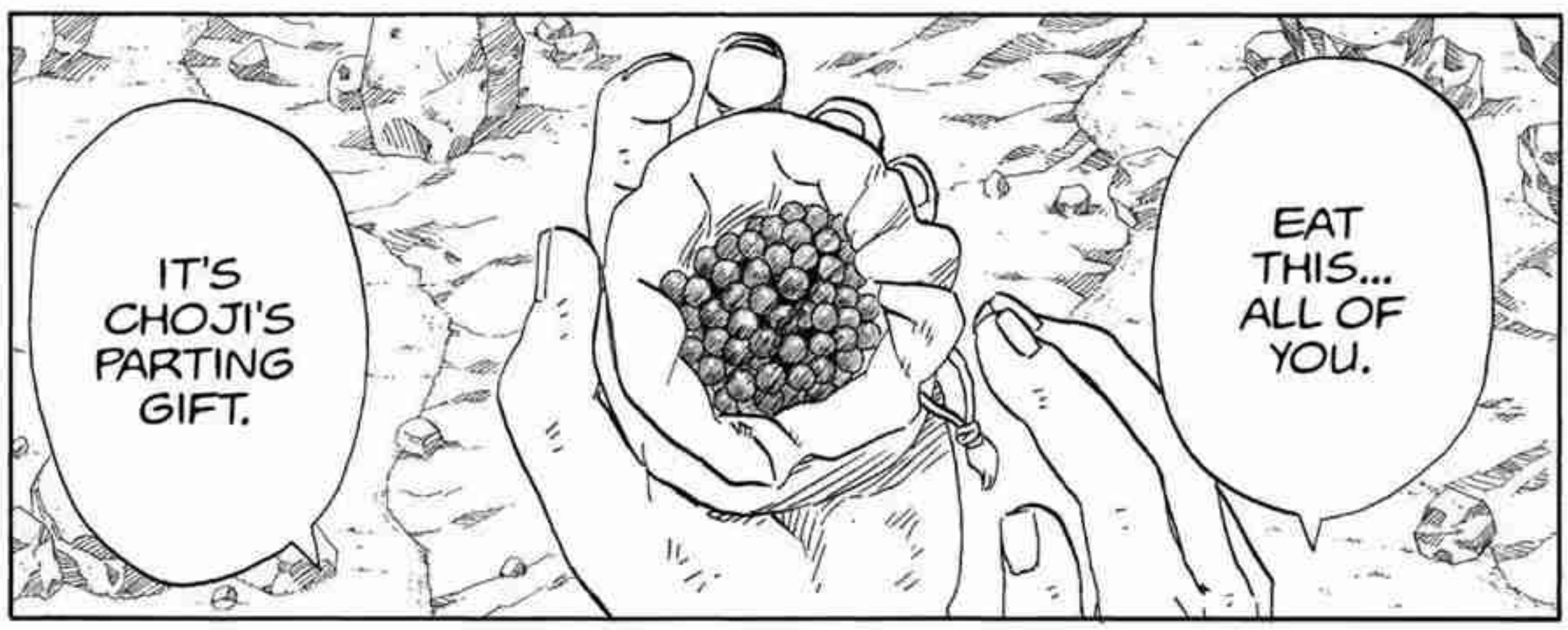
A NITWIT, TOWING AROUND A BUNCH OF SCUM-BAGS.

...

...
WAUUU...

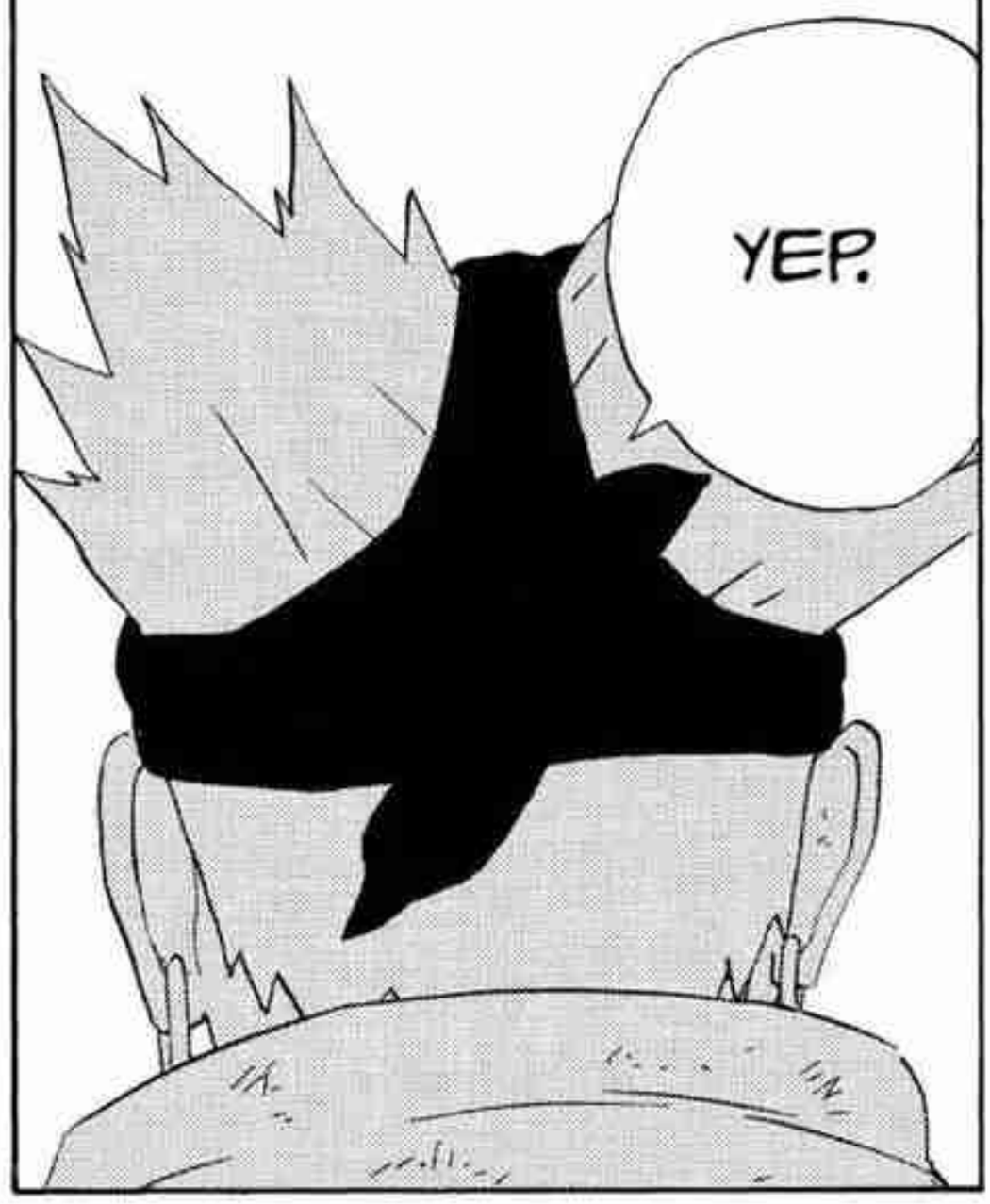
...

...


IT'S CHOJI'S PARTING GIFT.
EAT THIS... ALL OF YOU.

CHUFF CHUFF

TAK
THEN I'LL TAKE SOME. THANKS, CHOJI.


YEP.

YOU CATCH UP TO US. YOU GOT THAT, CHOJI?

OKAY, LET'S DO IT!
WSH
WSH
WSH
WSH

HMPH...

I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU...

THEN I'LL HUNT THEM DOWN FOR DESSERT!!

FWOOM

HMPH ...

POP

SHFF

YOU THINK SO.

WHAMM

FIRST, THE GREEN SPINACH PELLET, THE HOREN-GAN!!

CHOMP

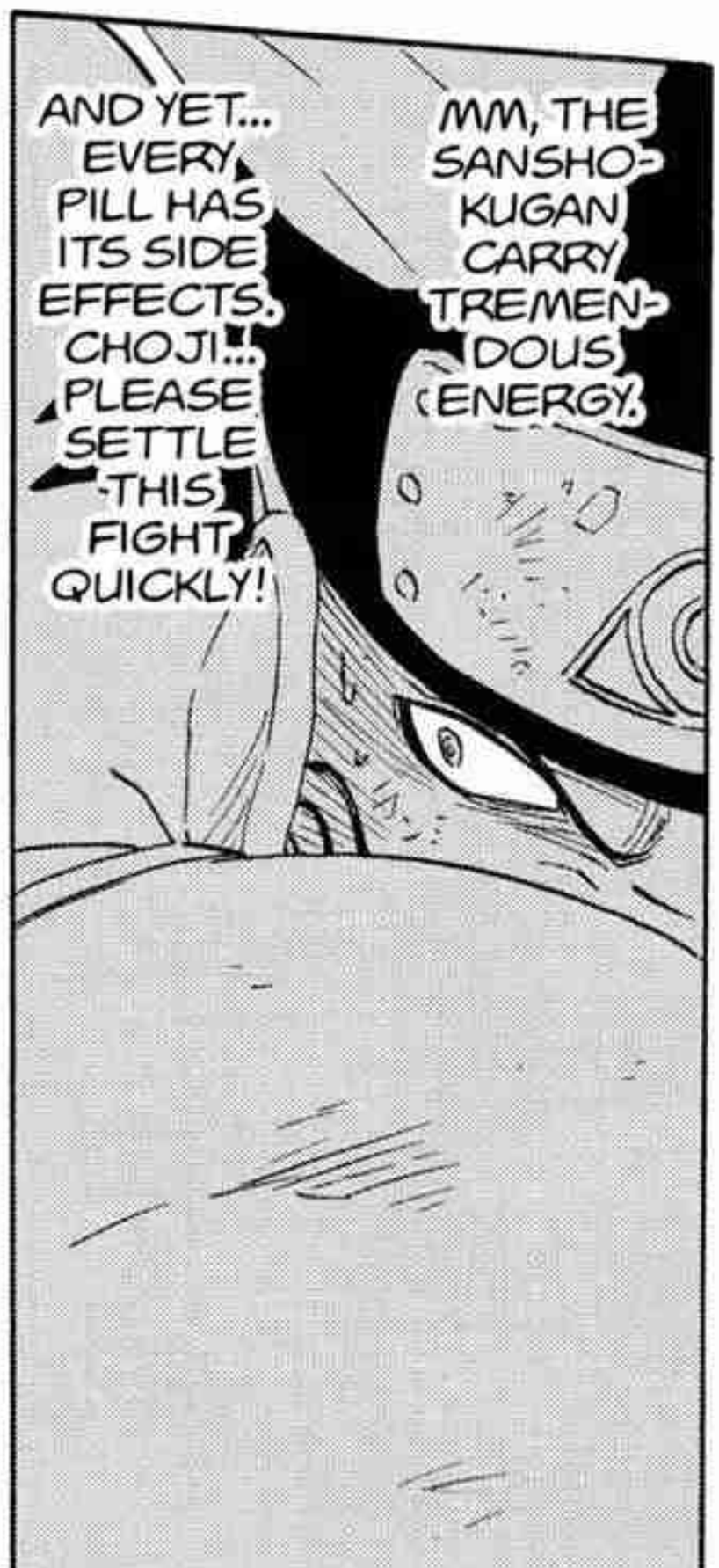
THREE COLORS... THOSE AREN'T HYOROGAN MILITARY RATIONS PELLETS. THEN WHAT COULD THEY...

...?!

!!
YOU THINK HE HAS A CHANCE TO WIN?
SHIKAMARU, BACK WHEN YOU WERE TALKING WITH CHOJI...
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE HAS AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE.
YEAH, THAT SPECIAL RESERVE! WHAT IS THAT?
CHOJI...!!

GOOD LUCK, GUYS!!

CLOP



HMPH...

Number 189: Faith...!!

MMFF
KRAKKRAK

KW
AA

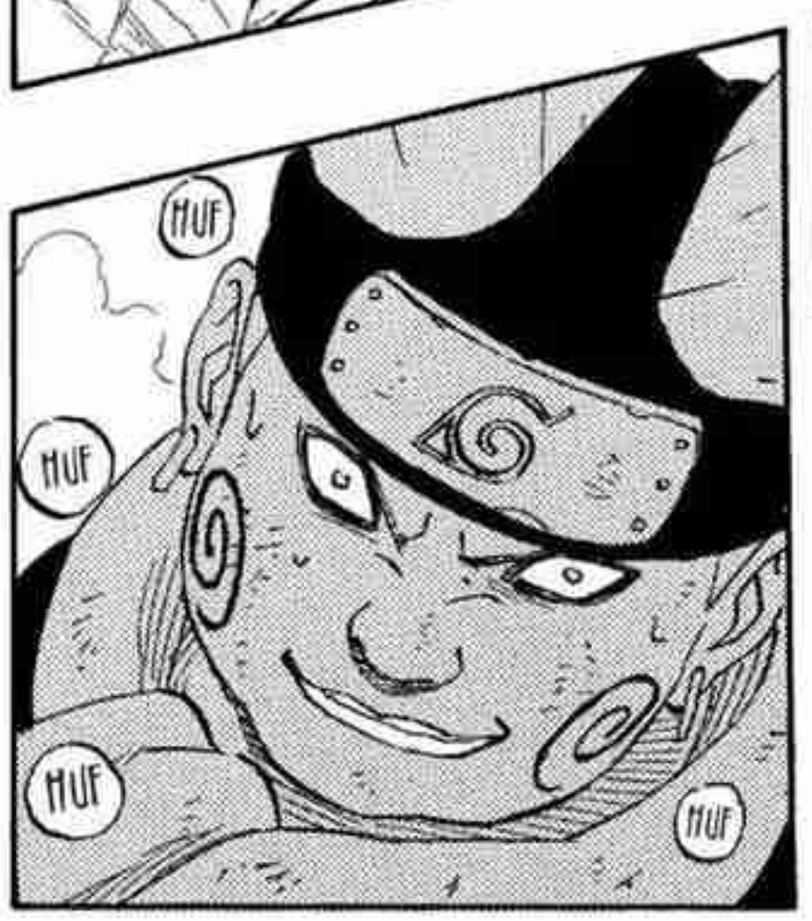
HOW COULD HE...
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

KRRRK
!!

READ THIS WAY
HEEYAAA!!
SHUNK!!
WHAT?!!
FWUP
FWEET
SNAG
POW
UM
YAAAHH!!

SKRNNCH

WHA
UGAH.
MM


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

AH CRUD... NEVER THOUGHT A HORENGAN COULD HURT THIS BAD...

!!

MAKE SURE YOU FINISH BY THE GREEN ONE...
DON'T EVEN TOUCH THE RED...

CHOJI...
...

WHAT'S AKAMARU GOT TO SAY?

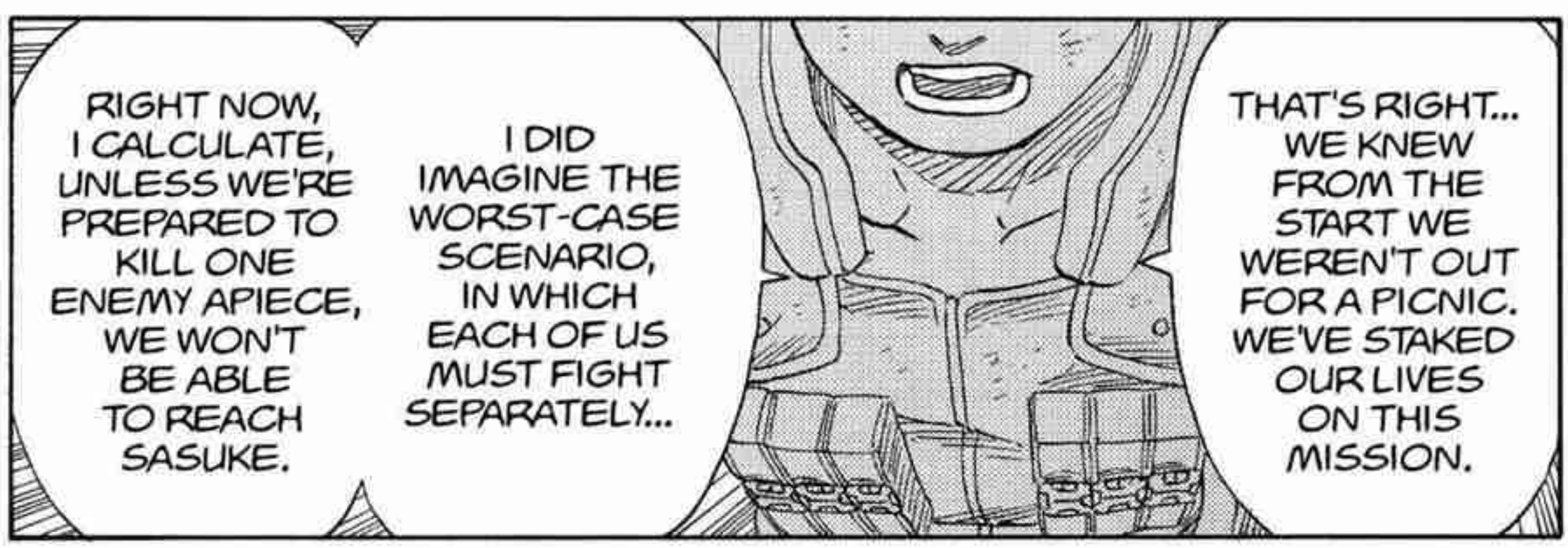
YEAH, I WAS THINKING THE SAME JUST NOW.
WOO! ...

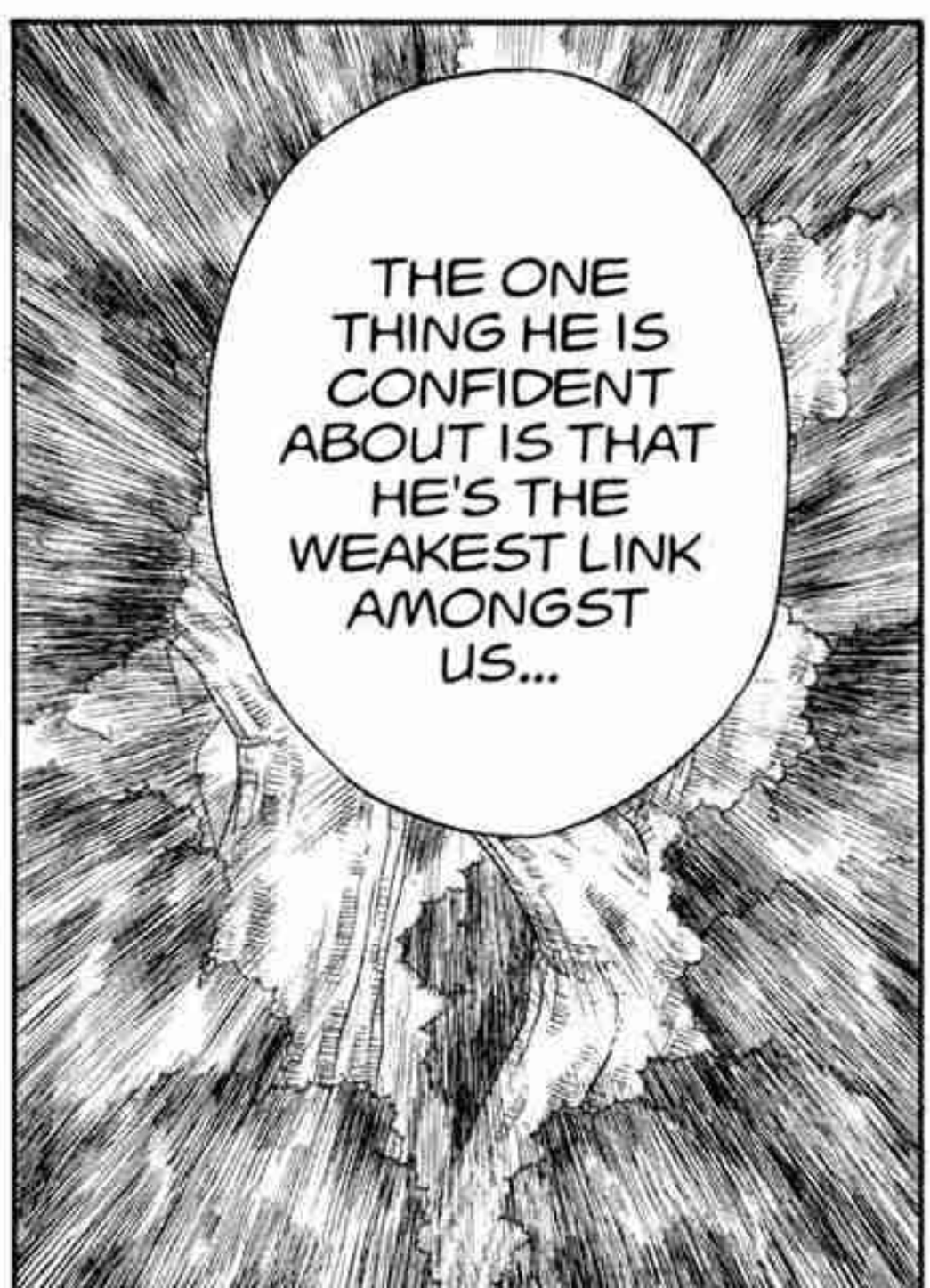
HE'S JUST WORRIED WHETHER THOSE PELLETS ALONE...
...CAN HELP CHOJI WIN AGAINST THAT MONSTER... THAT'S ALL.
SHOOOOM
YOU GUYS KNOW THAT AKAMARU CAN JUDGE AN ENEMY'S STRENGTH BY THEIR SCENT, RIGHT...

THAT'S THE NATURE OF BATTLE.

WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT POWER THAT MAMMOTH IS COMMANDING... CHOJI MAY WELL STAND ZERO CHANCE AGAINST HIM. AND YET...
IT'S TRUE... IF WE SIT BACK AND LOOK AT THE SITU-ATION...

...


RIGHT NOW, I CALCULATE, UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO KILL ONE ENEMY APIECE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH SASUKE.
I DID IMAGINE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, IN WHICH EACH OF US MUST FIGHT SEPARATELY...
THAT'S RIGHT... WE KNEW FROM THE START WE WEREN'T OUT FOR A PICNIC. WE'VE STAKED OUR LIVES ON THIS MISSION.


THE ONE THING HE IS CONFIDENT ABOUT IS THAT HE'S THE WEAKEST LINK AMONGST US...

...
CHOJI HAS A GOOD HEART...
WHAT HE LACKS IS CONFI-DENCE.

SURE...
...

THAT'S WHY HE STAYED BEHIND. HE WANTED TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO BE USEFUL.
TELL US SOME-THING WE DON'T KNOW.

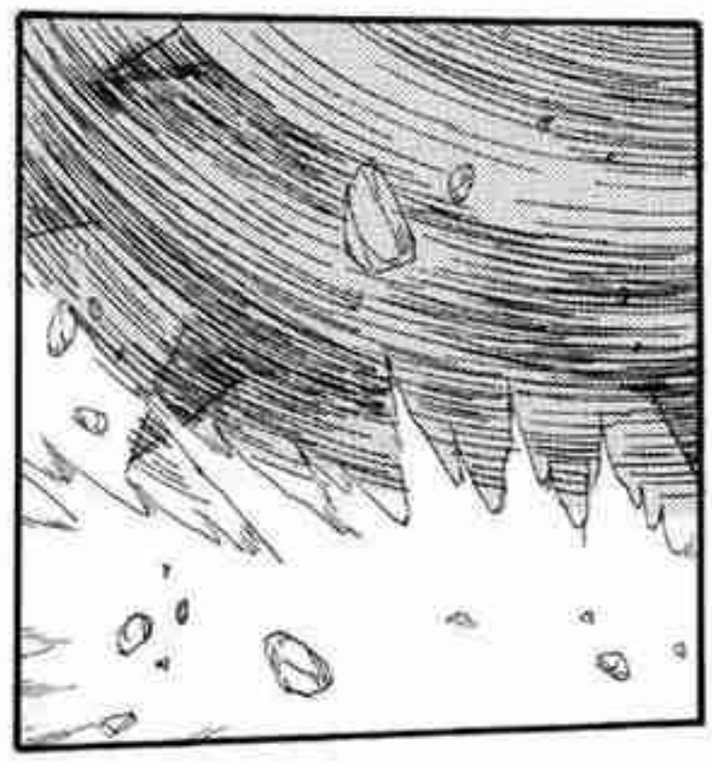
FW IP
BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPAN-SION !!

RUNNNG
SHRNNNG

SHRNNNGG

BUDOWNG

SKRNNCHKRAKK



SPAK

EARTH STYLE! TERRA SHIELD !!

RUNK

!!
DUP
NGUH!!
WHAT ?!
!
DRUP

SPAKK

HÔSHÔ! SHATTER PALM!!

UGAH!

ONNG

KRRAK

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, SCUMBAG!

KRR NG

HUF

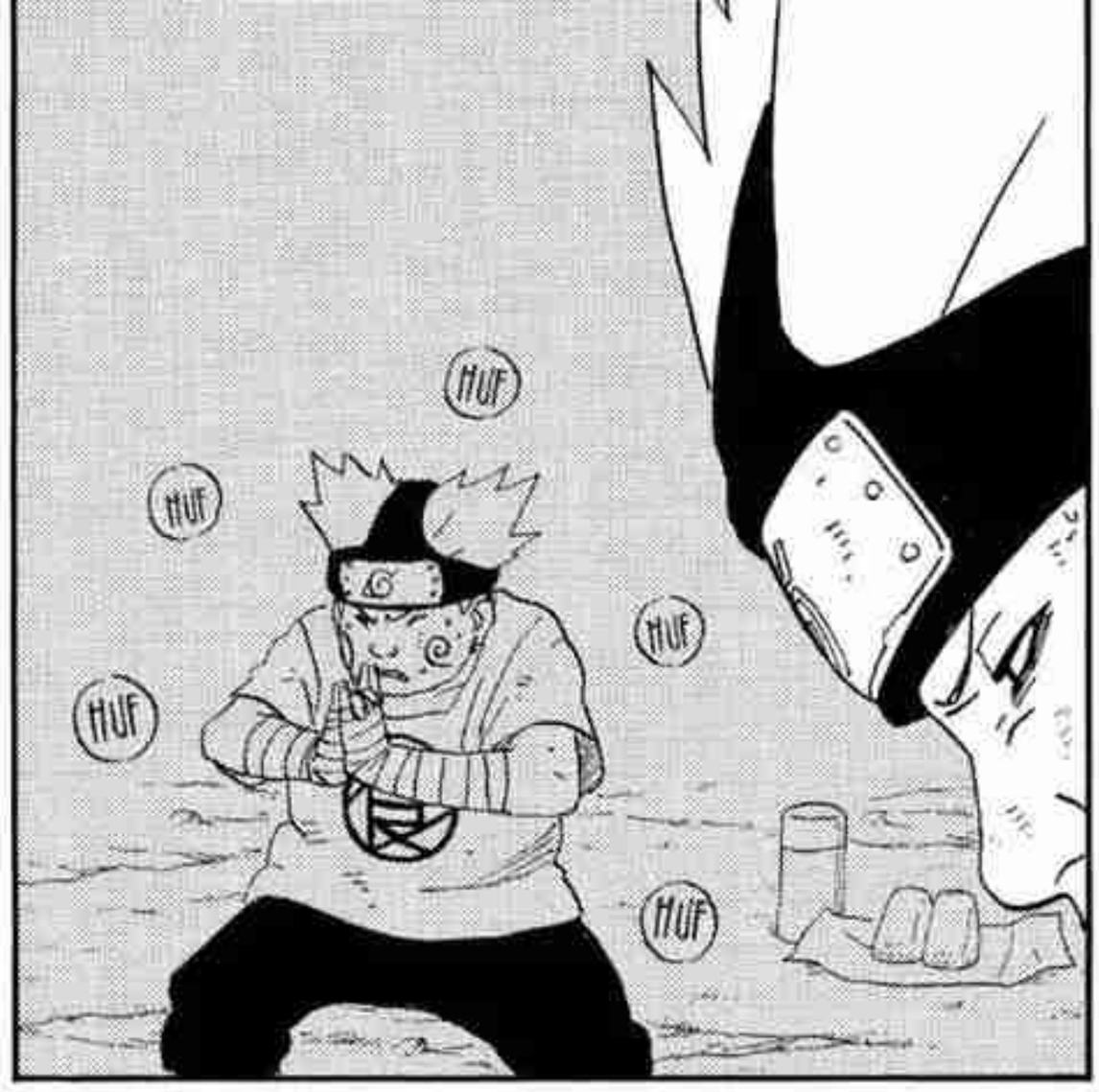
HUF

YOU ARE THE PAWN.

YOU GET FIVE PEOPLE TOGETHER, ONE OF THEM IS ALWAYS THE REJECT.

THE GUY THEY ONLY KEEP AROUND FOR A LAUGH. AND IN A PINCH, HE'S ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO GO, A PAWN AMONG KNIGHTS.

HMPH... YOU KNOW SOME-THING?


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

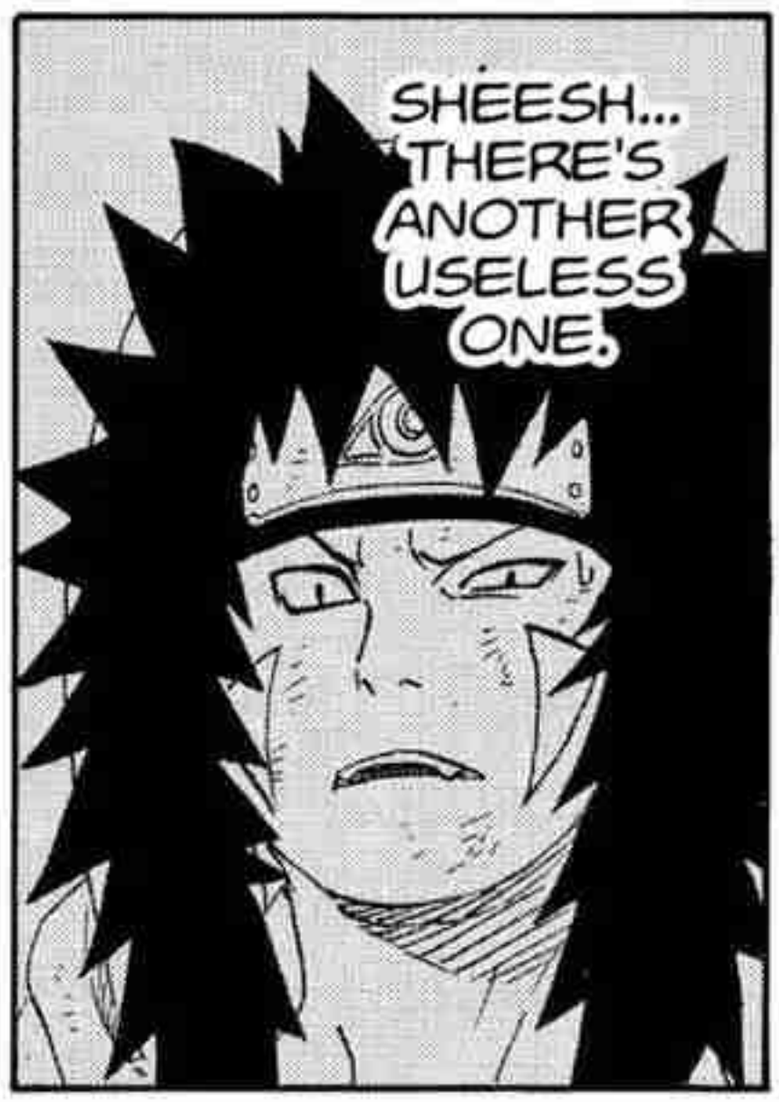
...

YOU'RE JUST A PI...
THIS IS WHY EVERYBODY MAKES FUN OF YOU!

YOU SHOULD TRAIN A BIT MORE. SHIKA-MARU'S A CHÛNIN ALREADY.
CHOJI, ALL YOU WANNA DO IS EAT...

I...
HUF
IT'S TRUE... NO, MATTER HOW HARD, I WORK BEHIND THE SCENES ...
HUF

...


SHEESH... THERE'S ANOTHER USELESS ONE.

I WAS THINKING, MAYBE, SHINO?
EXCEL-LENT, RIGHT?

HE'S THE BEST FOR ANY TEAM.
CHOJI'S BEEN MY TEAM-MATE FOR AGES.

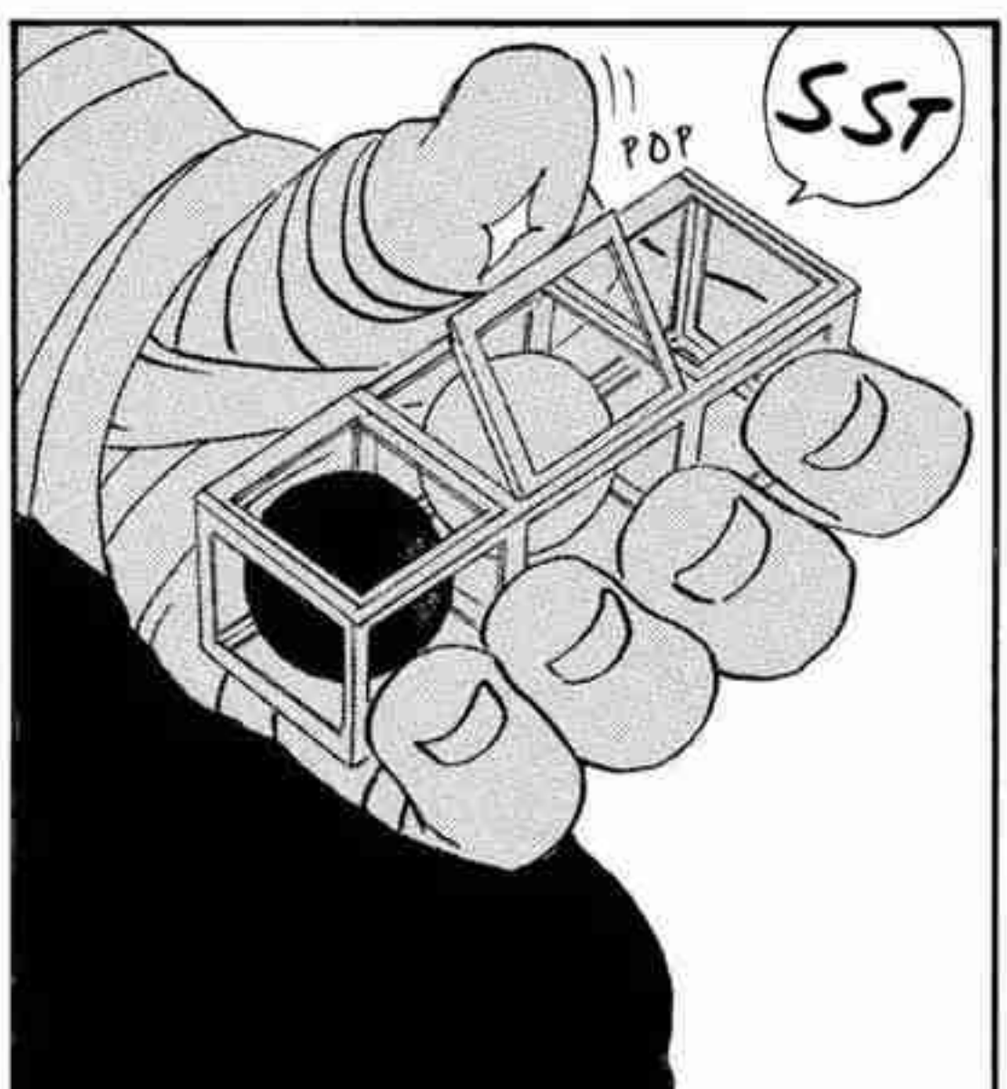
!
...

HMPH... ALL THE SAME, KONOHA MUST BE REALLY SHORT OF TALENT...
TO SEND OUT TRASH LIKE YOU TO PURSUE US.
OH, I'M SORRY. DID I TOUCH A NERVE?

...AND YOU'RE YOU.

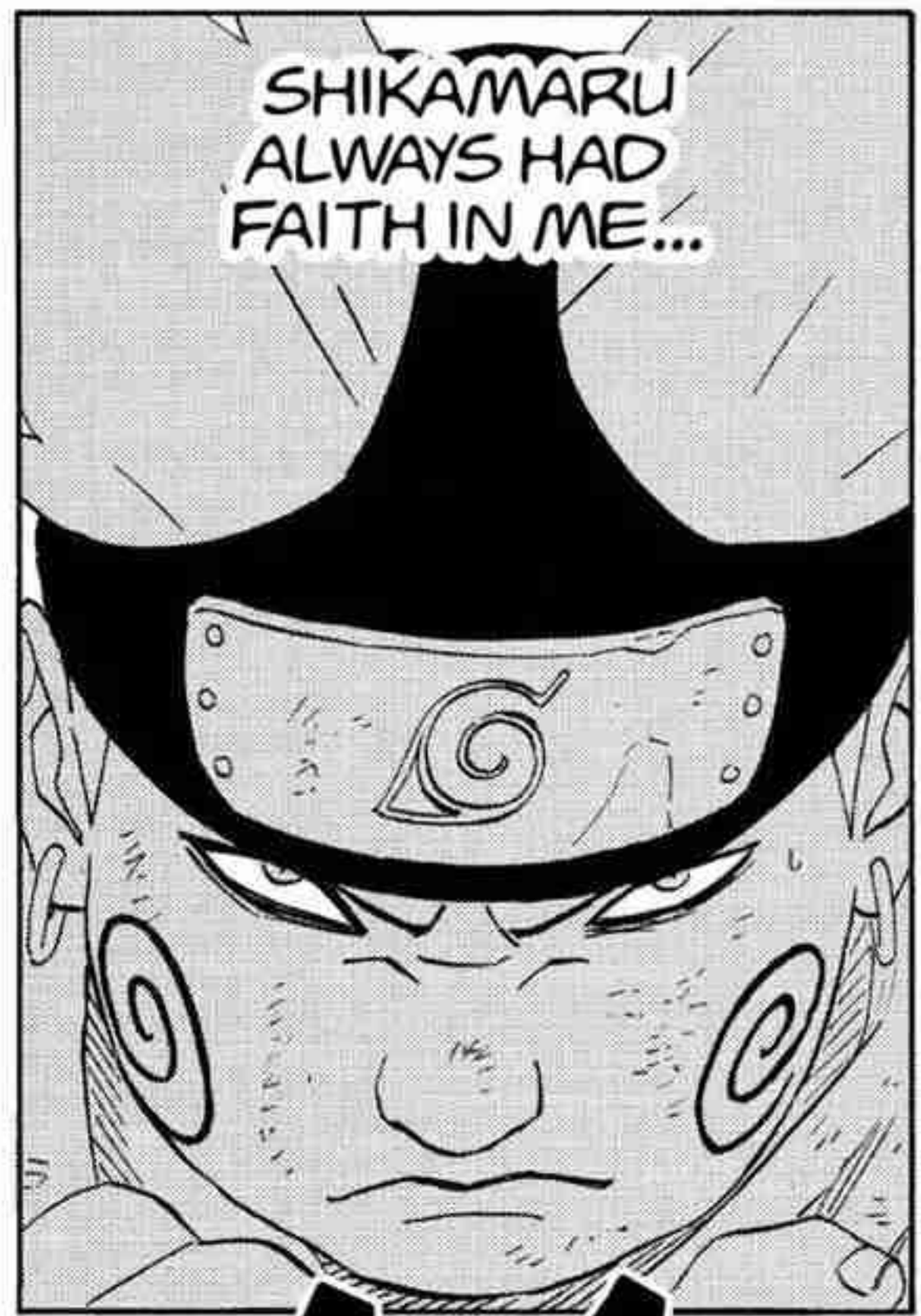
SHIKA-MARU ...
HE HAD FAITH IN ME...

I MIGHT'VE GIVEN UP IF I WENT AGAINST YOU.
BUT IF WE WENT AT IT, YOU MIGHT BE STRONGER, RIGHT?


SST
POP

...YOU READY ?!
CHOJI.

CHOMP
HE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN MY STRENGTH...


SHIKAMARU ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN ME...

!
ZWOOM
... FIGHT THIS ALONE !!!
THAT'S WHY HE LET ME...

STILL, FAR FROM A MAIN COURSE.
...! SOME PRETTY GOOD CHAKRA.

FWOO
RIGHT BACK AT YOU, FATSO!!
HERE I COME, FATSO !!
?!
BAM
BUBUN-BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF PARTIAL EXPAN-SION!!
ARM!!
NO FOOLING AROUND, SCUM-BAG!!
KLUD
KRISH SKRCH
RRAAA...

READ THIS WAY

?!

BUT THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE I KNOW...
SURE, I KNOW WHAT YOU ALL THINK.

SURE...

CHOJI IS BY FAR THE STRONG-EST.
THAT COMPARED TO ME OR NEJI, OR ANYONE ELSE HERE...

WHAT ?!!!

TAKE THIS !!
THAT'S... WHAT I BELIEVE.

FWIP

SLAM
THE ART OF SUPER-EXPAN-SION!!!

KAMM

BWAAM

NEVER THOUGHT A LOSER LIKE YOU...
...WOULD FORCE ME INTO SECOND STATE...

LATELY, IT'S BEEN GETTING REALLY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO COME UP WITH NEW CHARACTERS. IT'S SO HARD TO DESIGN GOOD ONES THAT, THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, I'M AFRAID THAT THE *NARUTO* SERIES MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE...SO TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, WE DECIDED TO HOLD A NEW EVENT!

AND JUST WHAT IS THIS NEW EVENT?! WELL, IT'S A "DESIGN AND MAIL IN YOUR OWN ORIGINAL CHARACTERS TO POOR CREATIVITY-DRAINED KISHIMOTO" COMPETITION! THE MOST EXCELLENT WORKS WILL BE PRINTED IN *JUMP* COMICS! IN ADDITION, I WILL COPY AND ILLUSTRATE THE BEST DESIGN, AND THAT TOO WILL BE PRINTED!! (PLEASE NOTE, THE BEST DESIGNER WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF MY TAKE ON HIS OR HER DESIGN.)

SERIOUSLY, IF YOUR CHARACTERS ARE GREAT, THEY MIGHT EVEN APPEAR IN *NARUTO*! SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, *JUMP* EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT YOU BY PHONE OR IN WRITING. (PLEASE RESPOND COURTEOUSLY WHEN IT HAPPENS!)

REMEMBER, THE DESIGN MUST BE TRULY ORIGINAL!

FURTHERMORE, YOU MUST DRAW A FULL BODY MODEL OF THE CHARACTER!!

HERE'S THE ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR CHARACTERS:

PLEASE SEND THEM TO:
SHONEN JUMP
C/O VIZ MEDIA, LLC
PO BOX 77010
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

※ NOTE: WE ACCEPT POSTCARD SUBMISSIONS ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT SEND LETTERS.

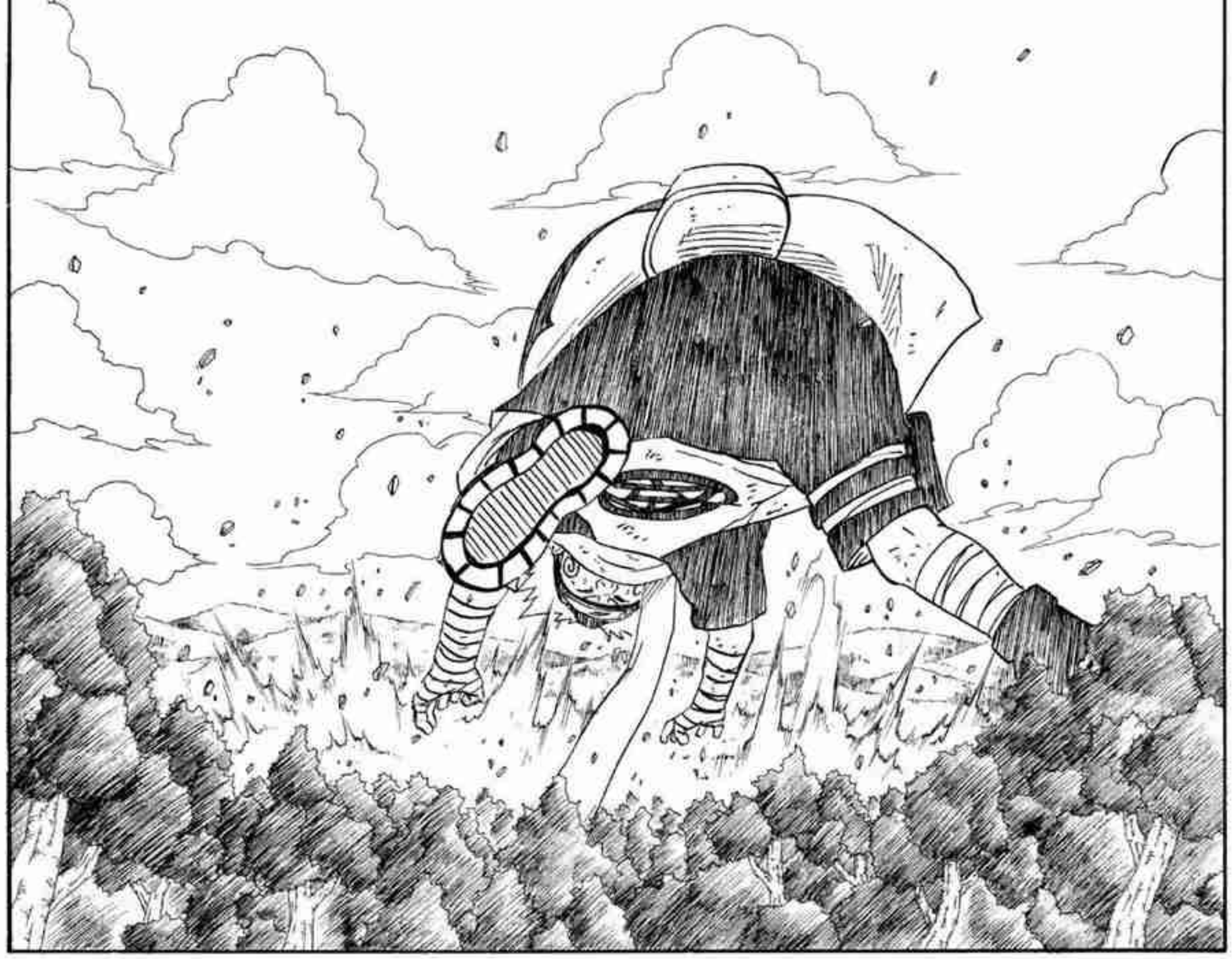
(THIS CONTEST WAS FOR JAPAN ONLY, BUT WE'D STILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOUR DRAWINGS. —ED)

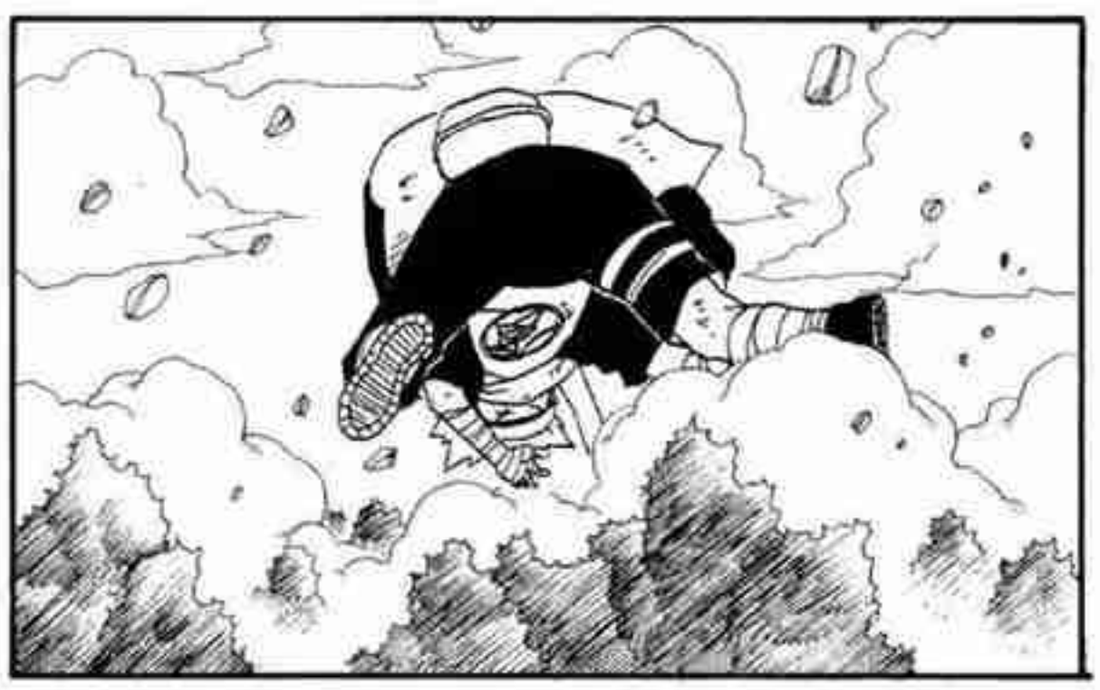
Number 190:
Unforgivable!!

WSST

GUK!
!!
SH
DA

SHÔ-
GEKISHÔ!
PALM
SLAM!!





...!

UGG...
...

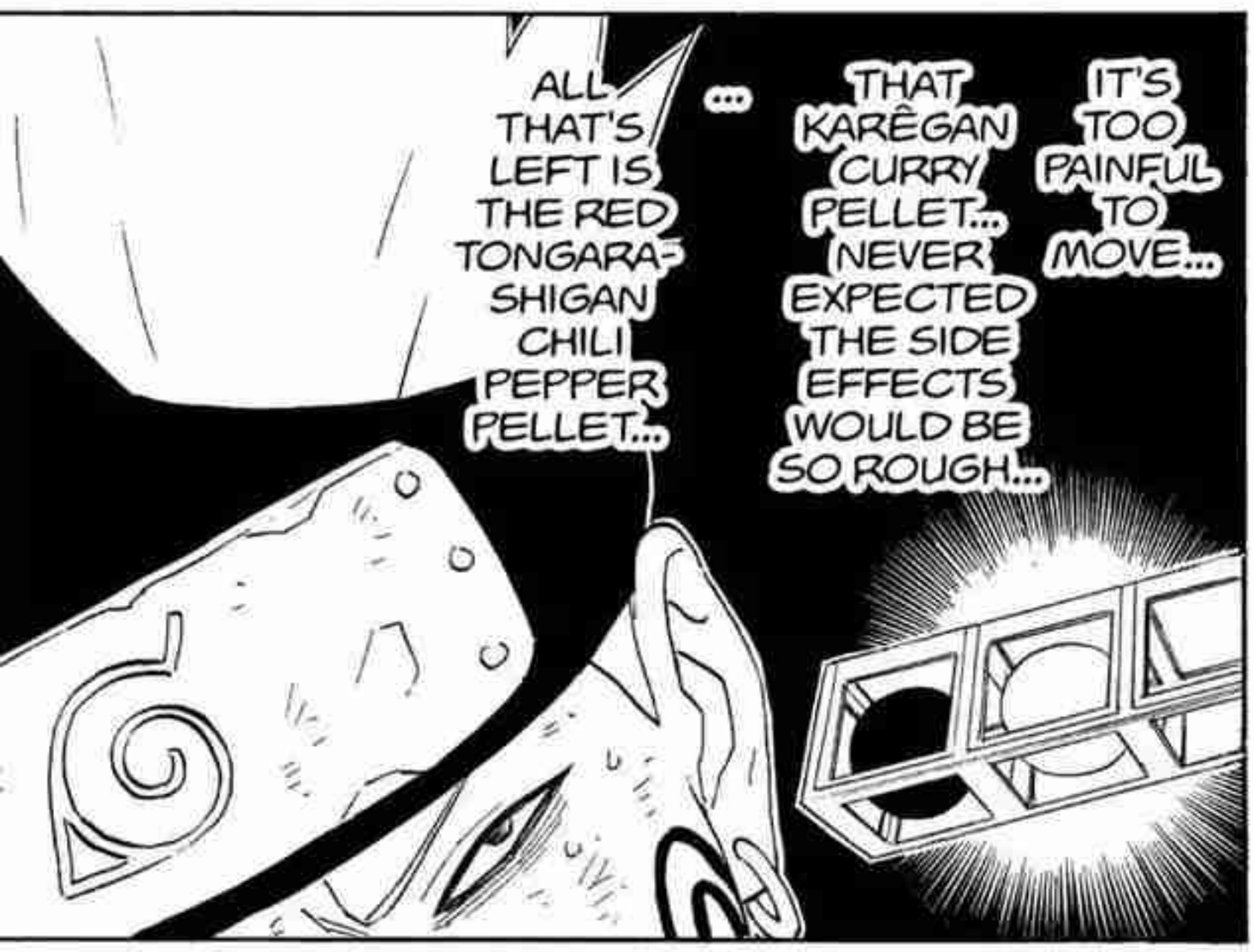
TH
OMP

IN THIS SECOND STATE, MY POWER IS TEN TIMES WHAT IT WAS BEFORE. I'M INVINCIBLE.
NOW YOU'RE FINISHED.

URK...
SHK SHK

SUCH AS A GREATER THAN EVER NEED FOR CHAKRA.
THERE ARE DRAWBACKS, OF COURSE...
KRINK

WHAT IS THIS... CHANGE?


ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE RED TONGARA-SHIGAN CHILI PEPPER PELLET...
...
THAT KARÊGAN CURRY PELLET... NEVER EXPECTED THE SIDE EFFECTS WOULD BE SO ROUGH...
IT'S TOO PAINFUL TO MOVE...

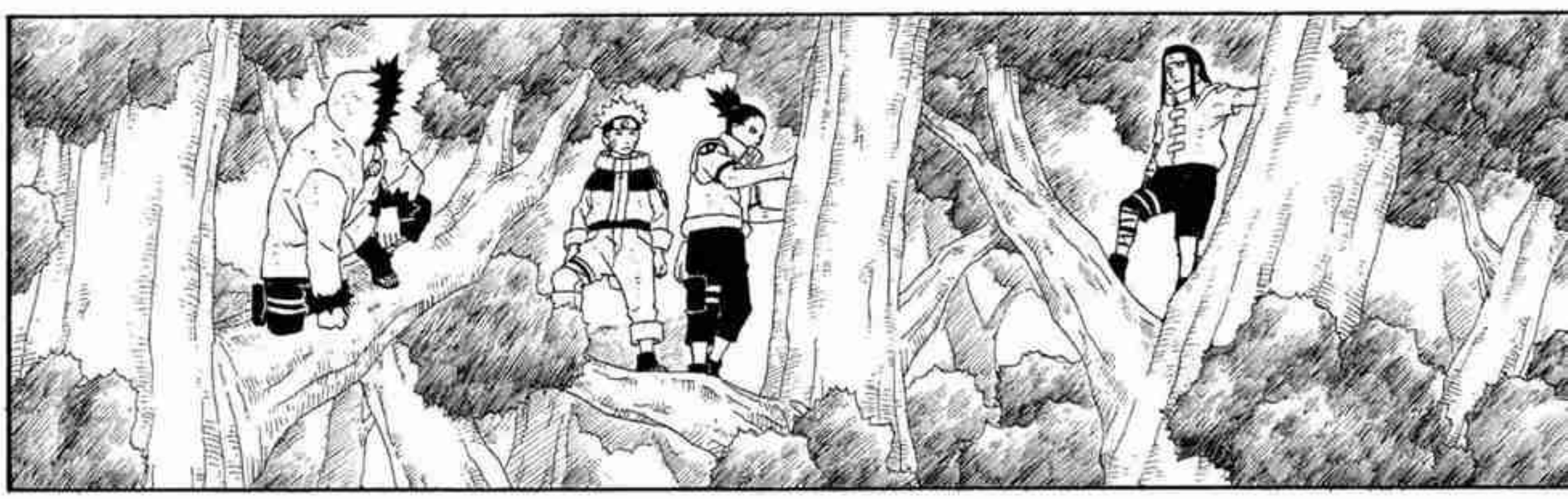
URRG... UGH...
TH
KO

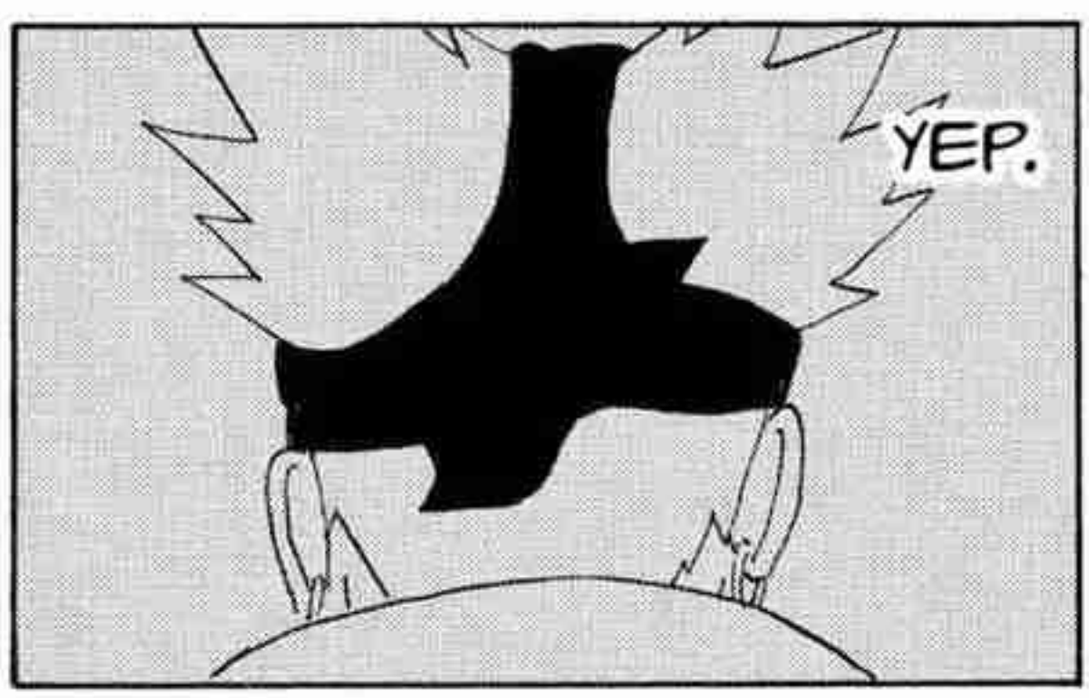
IT'S DINNER-TIME...
FINALLY ...

BUT IF I USE THAT ONE...
I'LL DIE FOR SURE...

BESIDES, HE PROMISED ME...
...
SKRCH SKRCH

SKRCHH

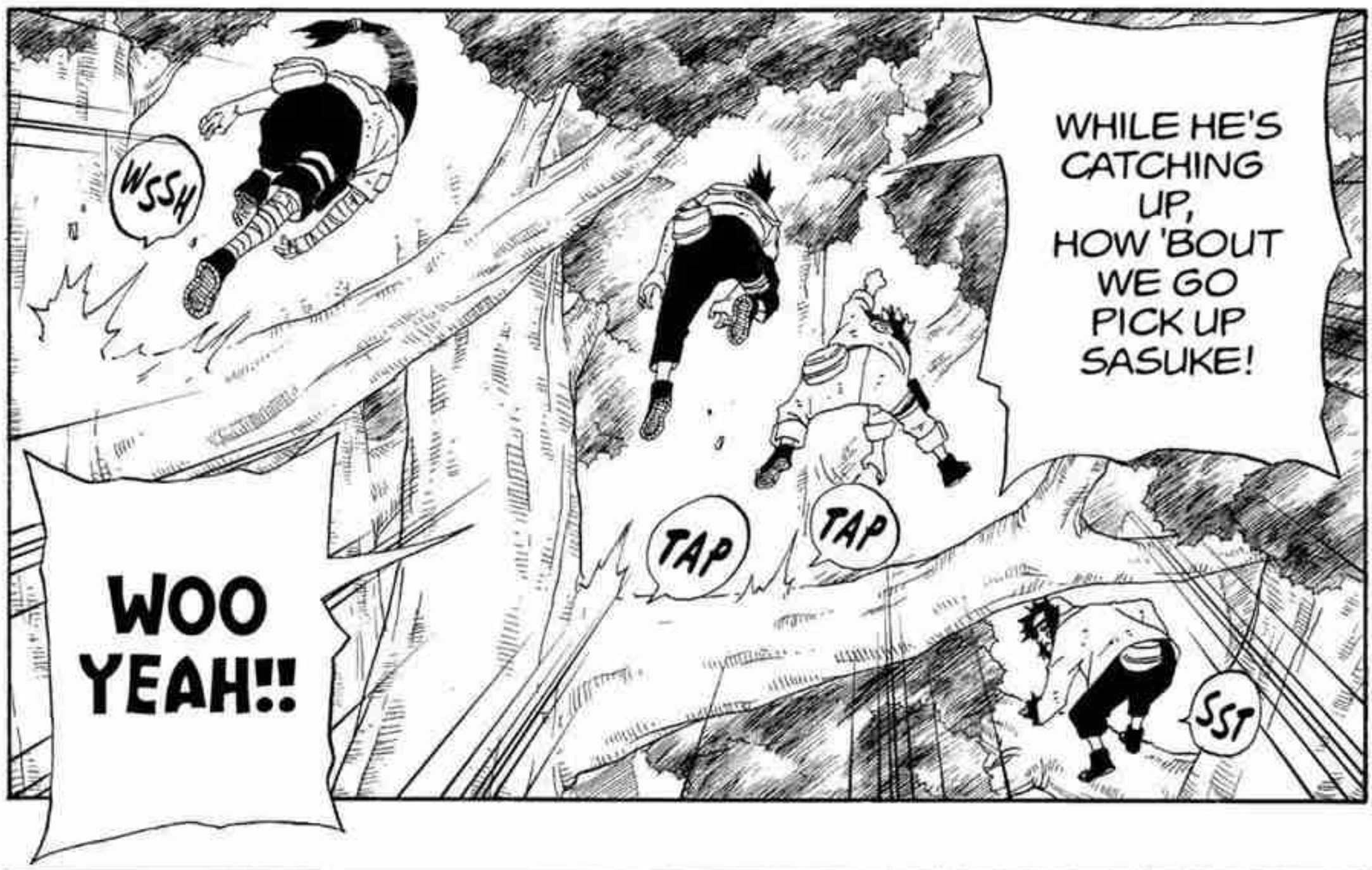



YEP.

YOU CATCH UP TO US. YOU GOT THAT, CHOJI?

AND HE WILL CATCH UP TO US.
HE'LL BEAT HIS ENEMY...

READ THIS WAY
SO LISTEN, GUYS.
...
HMPH! 'COURSE HE WILL.
HE'S AN ABLE MAN WHEN HE TRIES.
YUP!


WSSH
WHILE HE'S CATCHING UP, HOW 'BOUT WE GO PICK UP SASUKE!
TAP
TAP
SST
WOO YEAH!!

BIIA

MMM

SLURRRRR

KRINK

URK ...!!

HUF

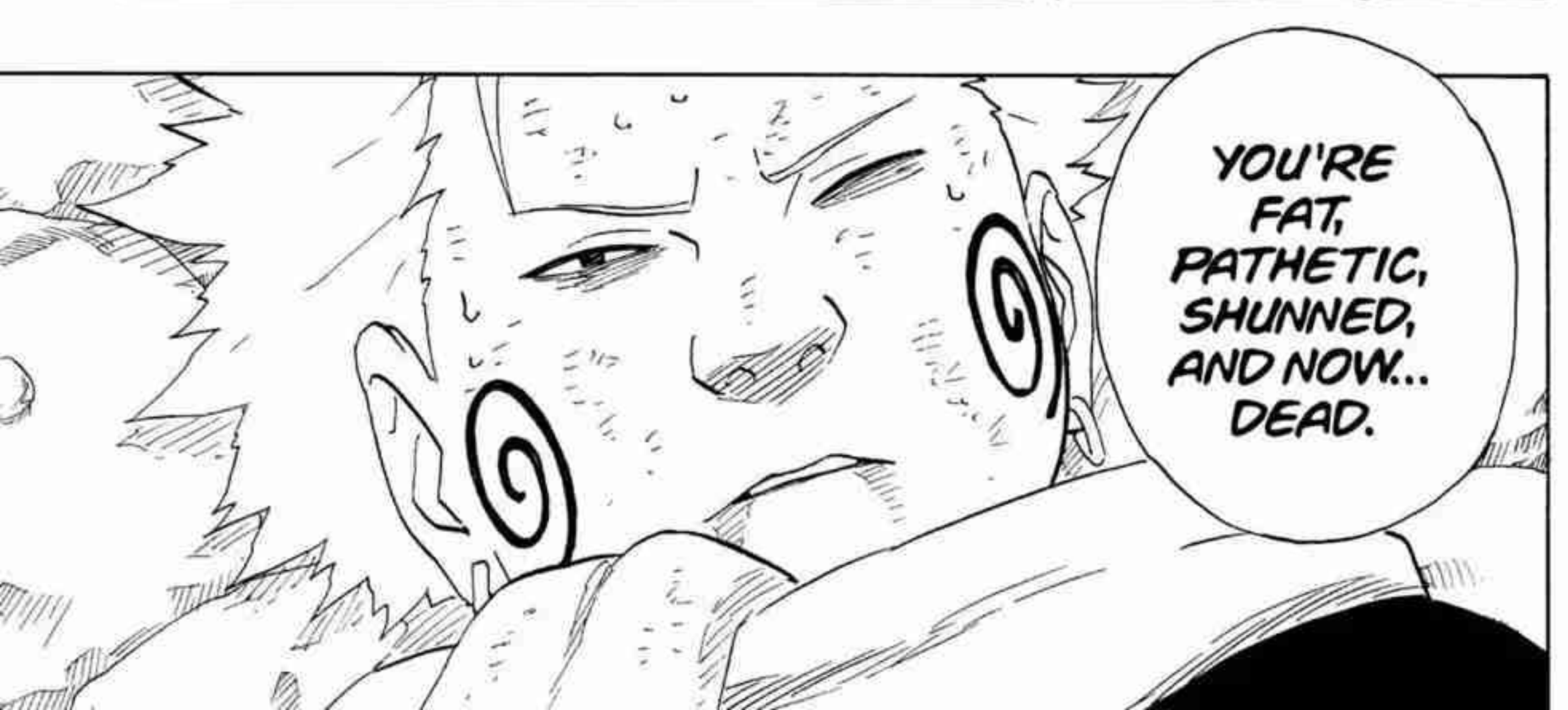
HUF

SHUK

HARDLY AN APPE-TIZER...

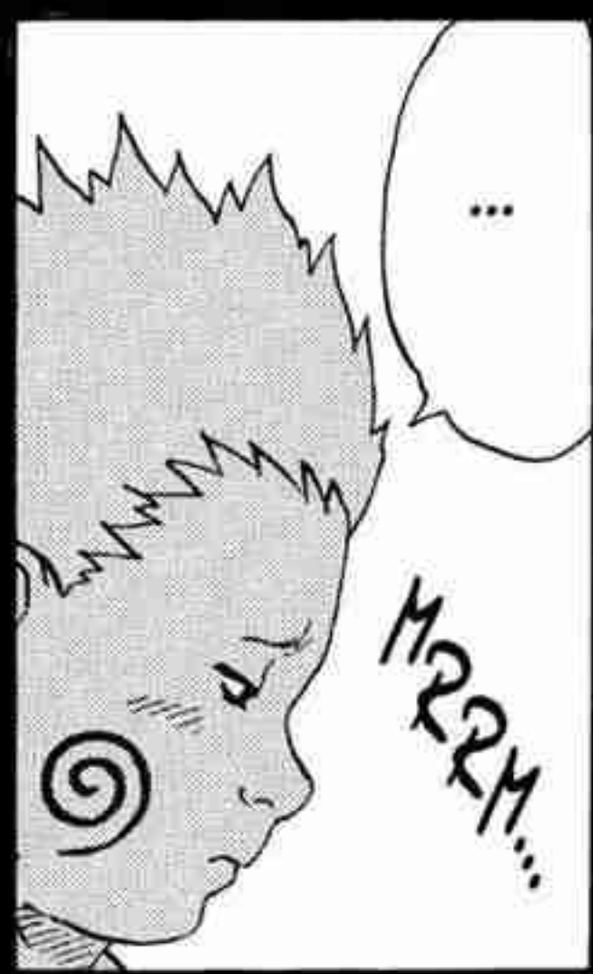
HMPH... THERE ISN'T MUCH CHAKRA LEFT AT ALL NOW...

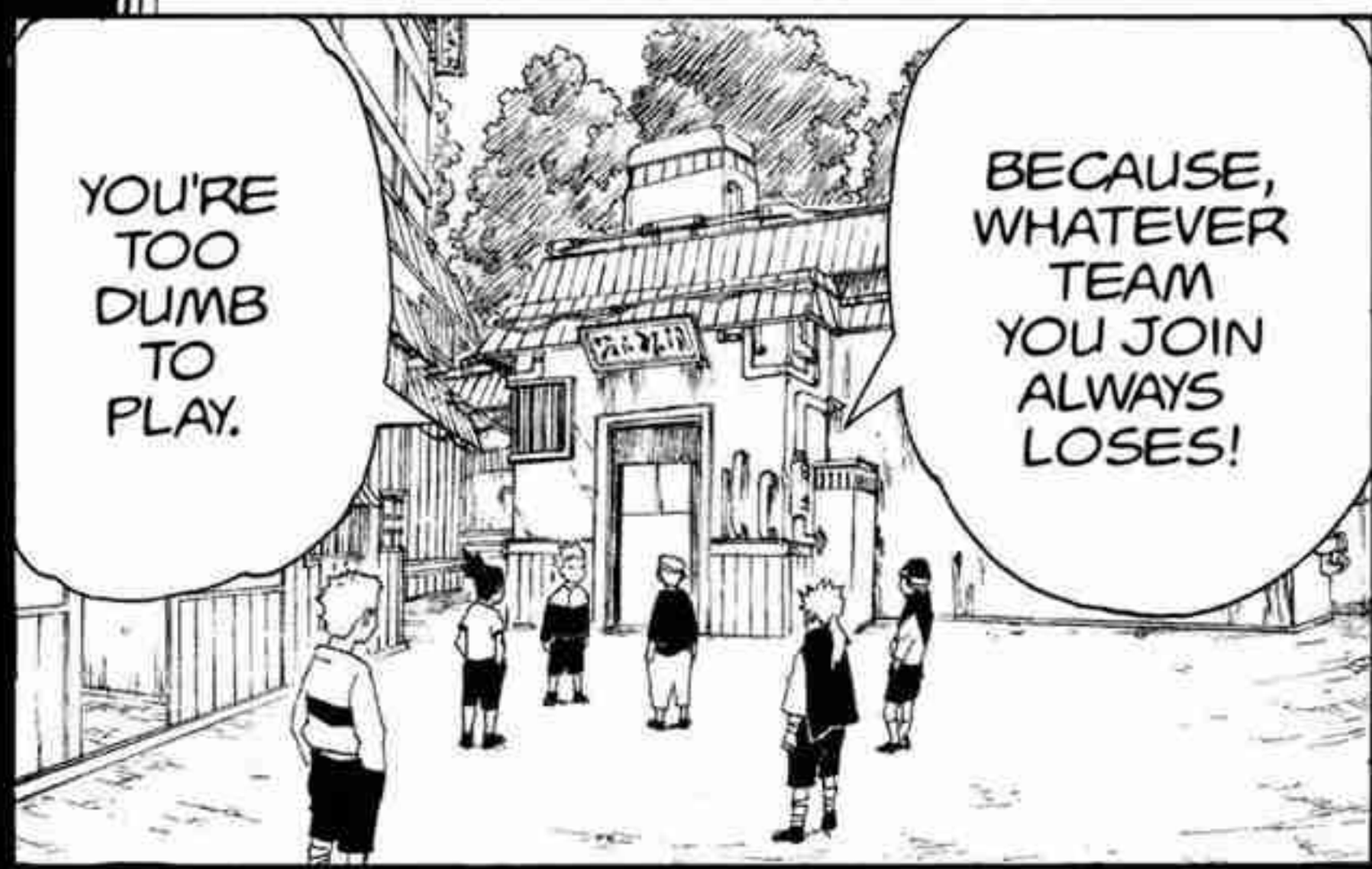
READ THIS WAY



BUT WHY?

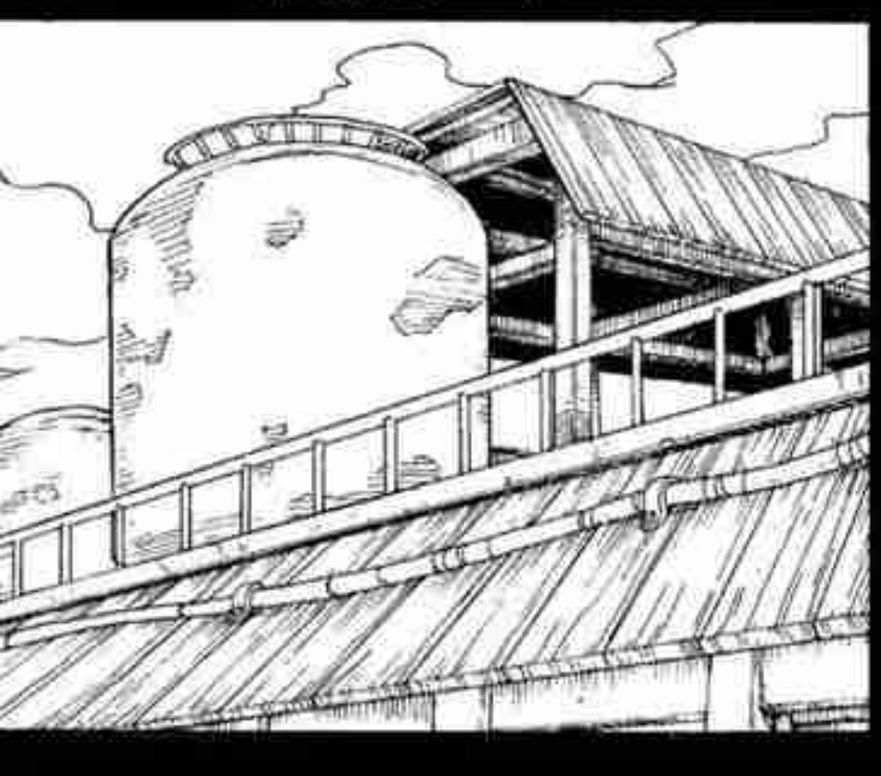
WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR NINJA GAME!


...
MRRM...


YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO PLAY.
BECAUSE, WHATEVER TEAM YOU JOIN ALWAYS LOSES!

BUT HAVING A PAWN LIKE HIM IS THE SAME AS NOT HAVING IT AT ALL!

LOOK...WE WON'T HAVE AN EVEN NUMBER WITHOUT HIM.
...
YOU KNOW, THE ONLY REASON SHOGI IS ANY FUN IS BOTH SIDES ARE EQUAL.



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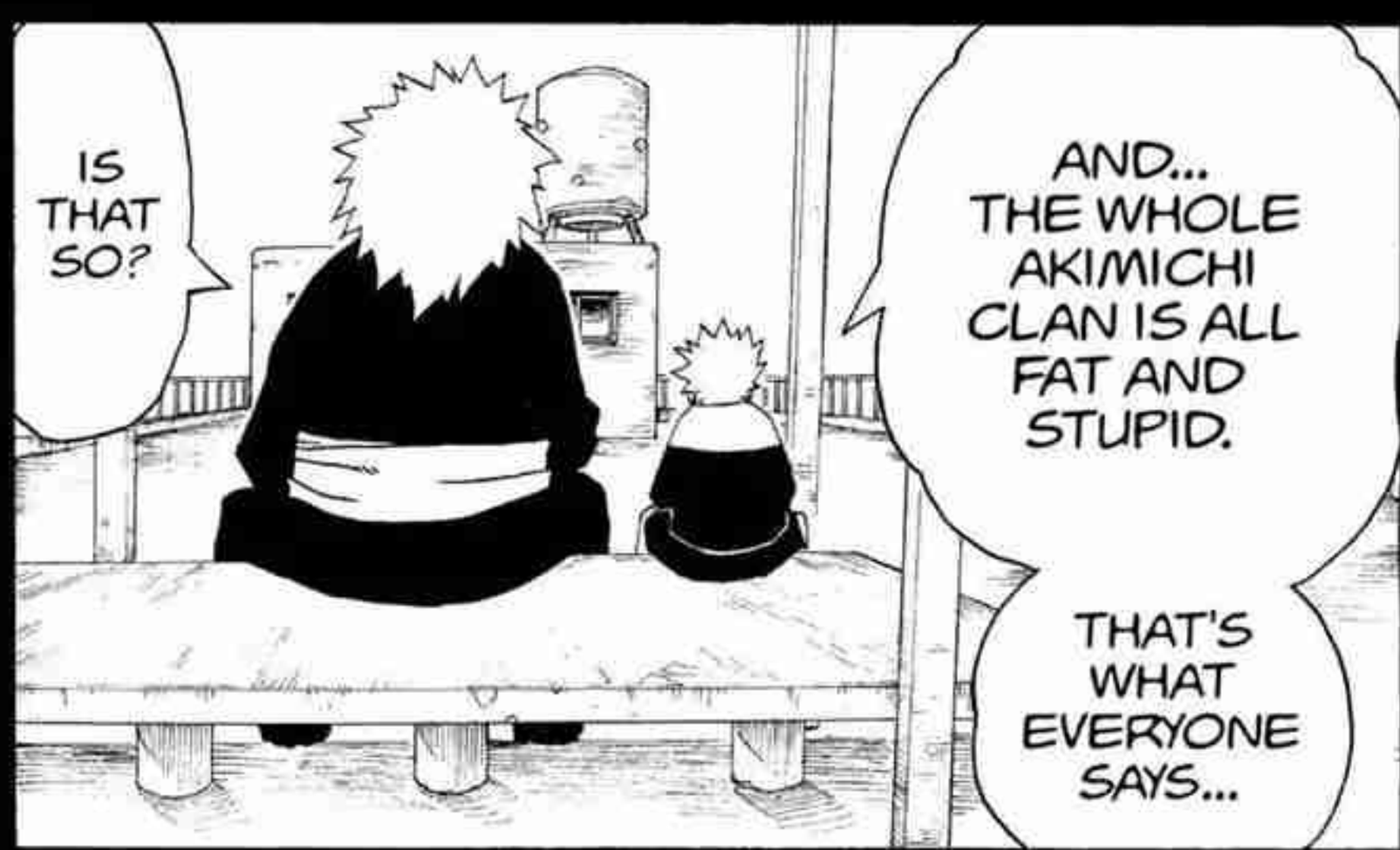

IS THAT SO?
AND... THE WHOLE AKIMICHI CLAN IS ALL FAT AND STUPID.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS...

SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL FIND A FRIEND WHO SEES THAT IN YOU.
AH, CHOJI. YOU'RE A SWEET BOY. SWEETER THAN ANYBODY.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU TREASURE THAT FRIEND. BECOME COMRADES, AND HAVE FAITH IN EACH OTHER. OKAY?

YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO...
!
!

HEY! AREN'T YOU...

AND, UM, YOU'RE SITTING IN MY SPECIAL SEAT.
I'M SHIKA-MARU... FROM THE NARA CLAN...

YOU'RE HERE FOR... CLOUD WATCH-ING?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NINJA GAME?

I LIKE LYING ON MY BACK AND WATCHING THE CLOUDS FROM THERE...
YOUR SPECIAL SEAT?

SO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HEH... IT GOT TIRESOME, SO I QUIT.

AKIMICHI CHOJI, OF THE AKIMICHI CLAN.

CHOJI!

A'SSHÔ! CRUSH-ING PALM!!

WHAT-EVER YOU'RE DOING, IT'S TOO LATE NOW!

BUT IF IT KILLS ME...

I WILL... DESTROY HIM!!

BIKO

OMM

!

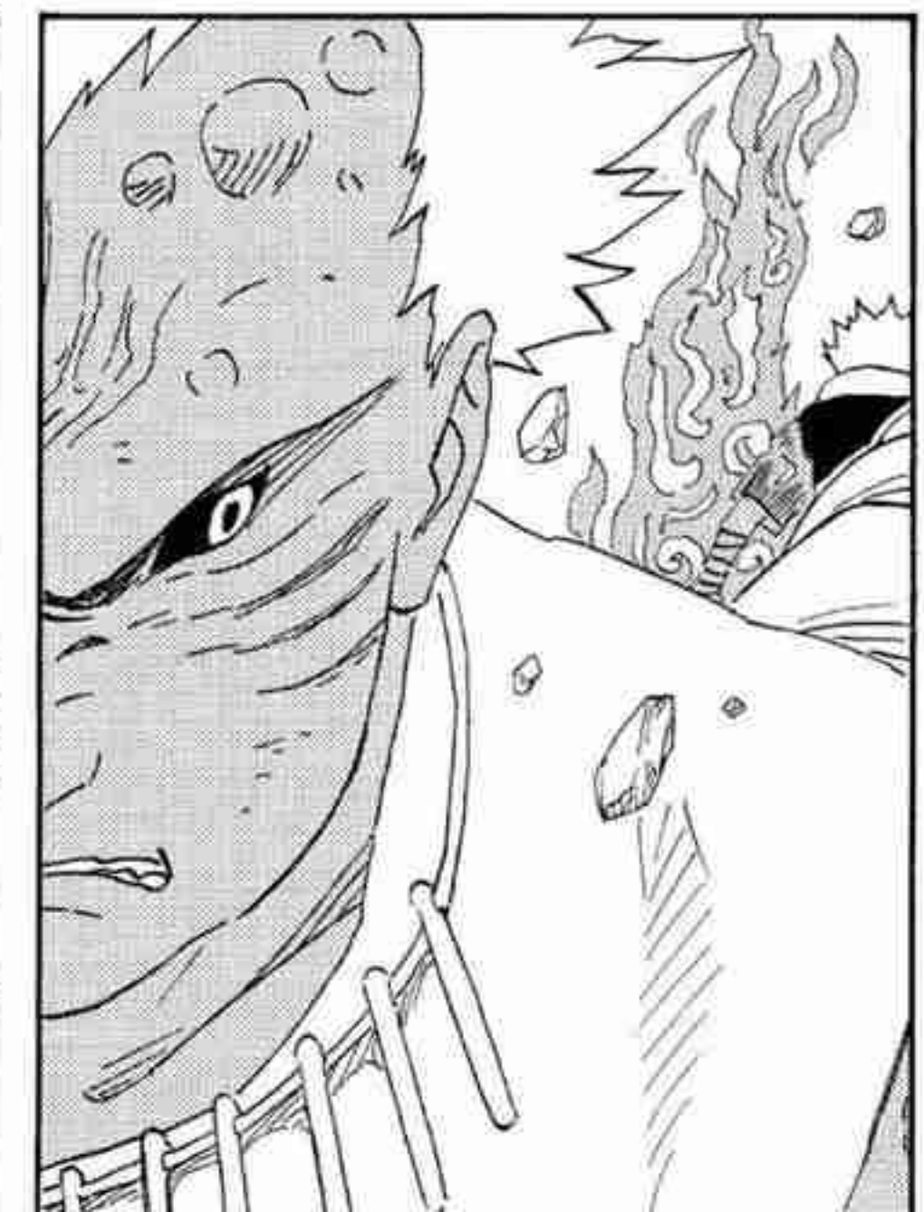
RRRMMRR!

FWOO

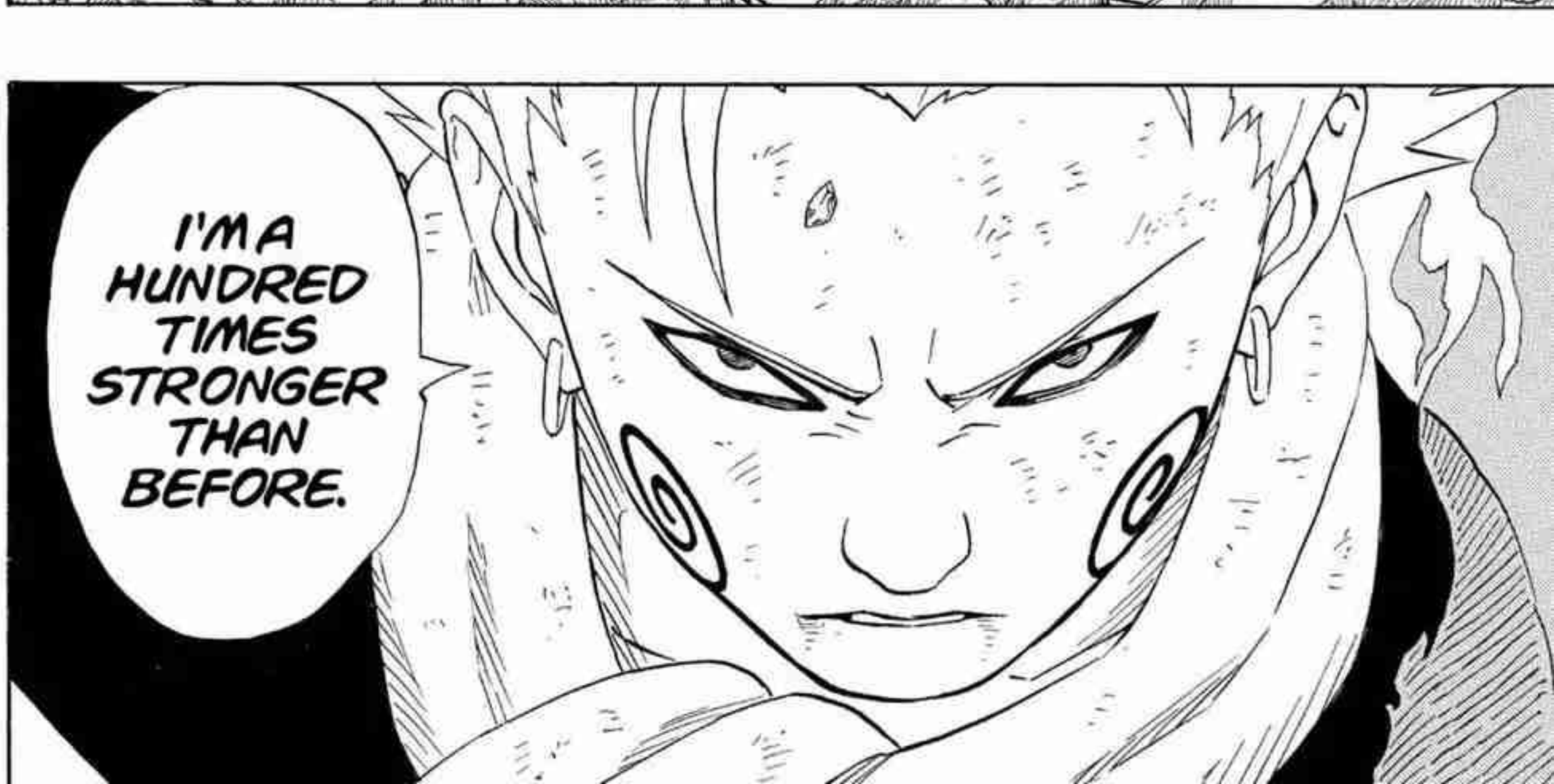
...ON MY LEFT HAND!
FWOOM

FOCUS ALL MY CHAKRA ...
GRAB
FWOO

GAN-GEKI! BOULDER BLOW!!



PA
!!
IT'S NO GOOD.


I'M A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

SKRSSHHH

IMPOSSIBLE! HIS CHAKRA IS MASSIVE ENOUGH TO TRANSFORM HIM?!

KRSH

UGAH!

KRAM

WELL, THAT ELBOW...

...WAS FOR SNARFING THE LAST CHIP.

DON'T THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN A GRUDGE OVER FOOD?

!

THIS ONE IS MORE SERIOUS, THOUGH.

W... WAIT!!

THIS... IS BAD...

ANOTHER BLOW...

FWOO

AND HERE'S ...

I'LL BE NICE AND KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICE WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING.

WELL, SCUMBAGS, GIVEN THE SHADOW-LOVING, DEPRESSING MORON YOU WORK UNDER...

HAVING A NITWIT FOR A LEADER SURE MAKES THINGS TOUGH FOR HIS SUBORDINATES.

YOU REALLY ARE A SCUMBAG, YOU KNOW THAT?!

...A THROWN-AWAY PAWN. I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO FORGIVE THAT.

YOU SEE, YOU CALLED ME...

LET'S NOT RUSH INTO...

WAI... WAIT...

...

UNFORGIVABLE !!

THAT'S WAY WORSE THAN STEALING THE LAST BITE OF THE VERY BEST FOOD. IT'S WORSE THAN CALLING ME A FATSO, OR A SCUMBAG. IN FACT, IT'S UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY...

YOU INSULT MY BEST FRIEND?

BUT EVEN WORSE ...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 22!